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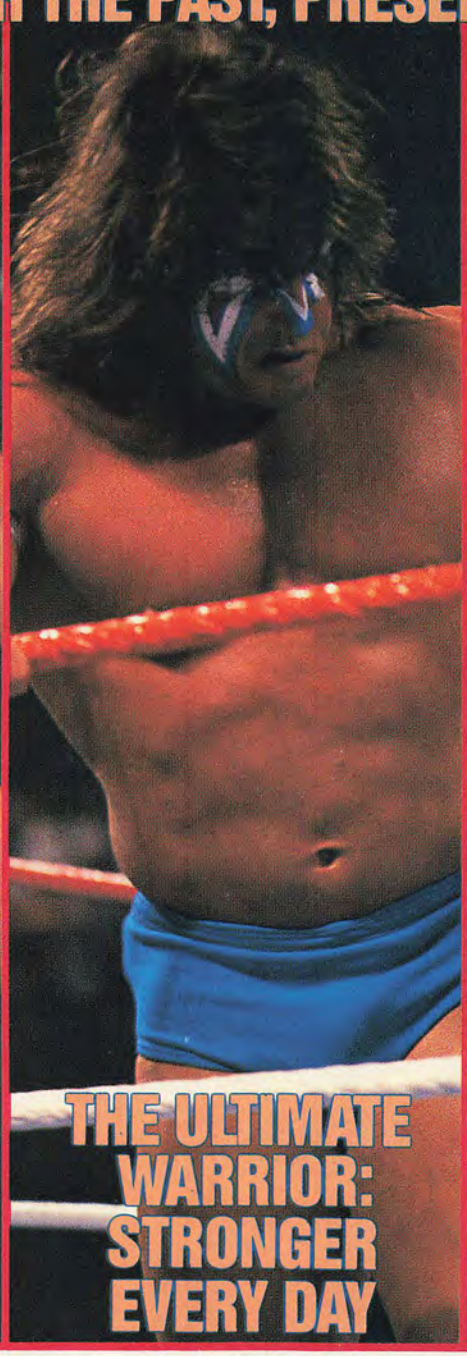

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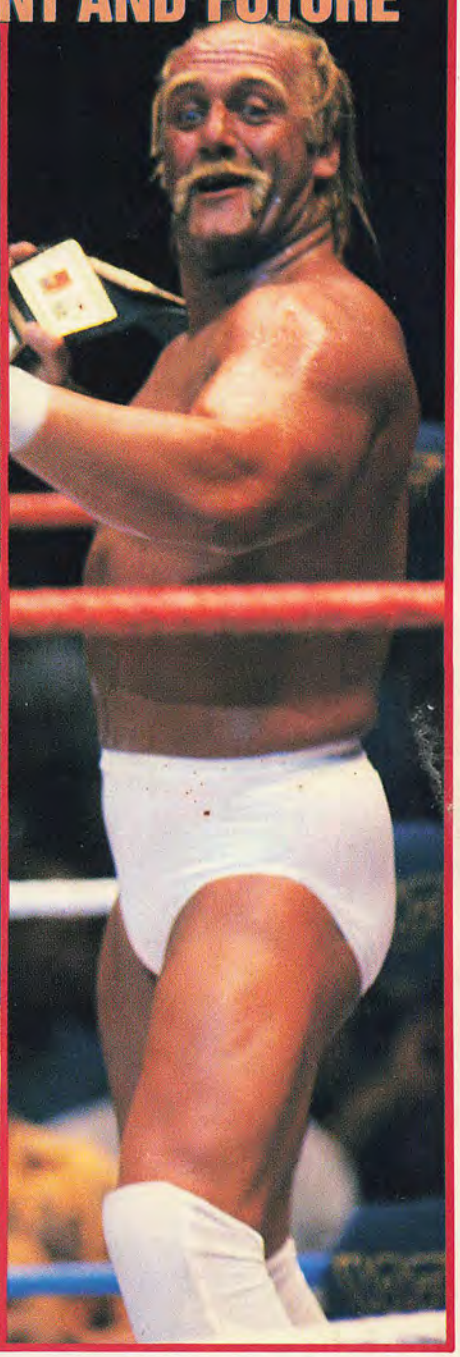

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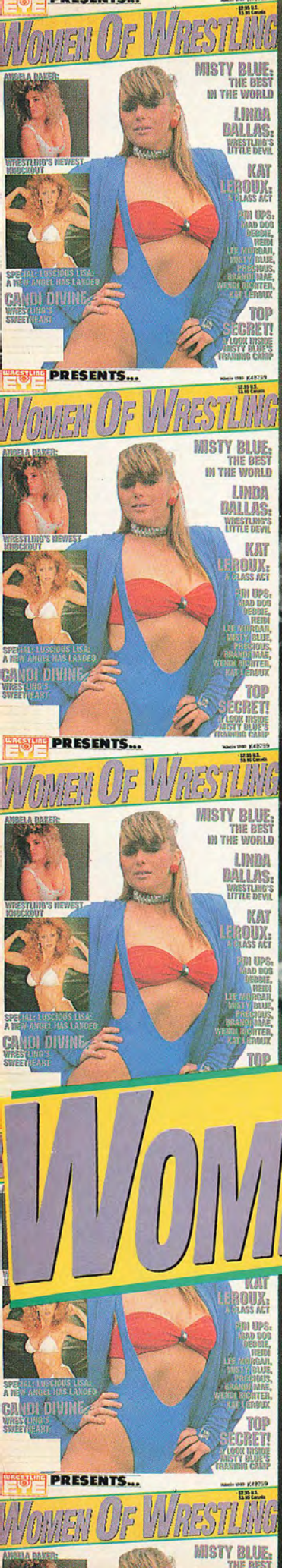

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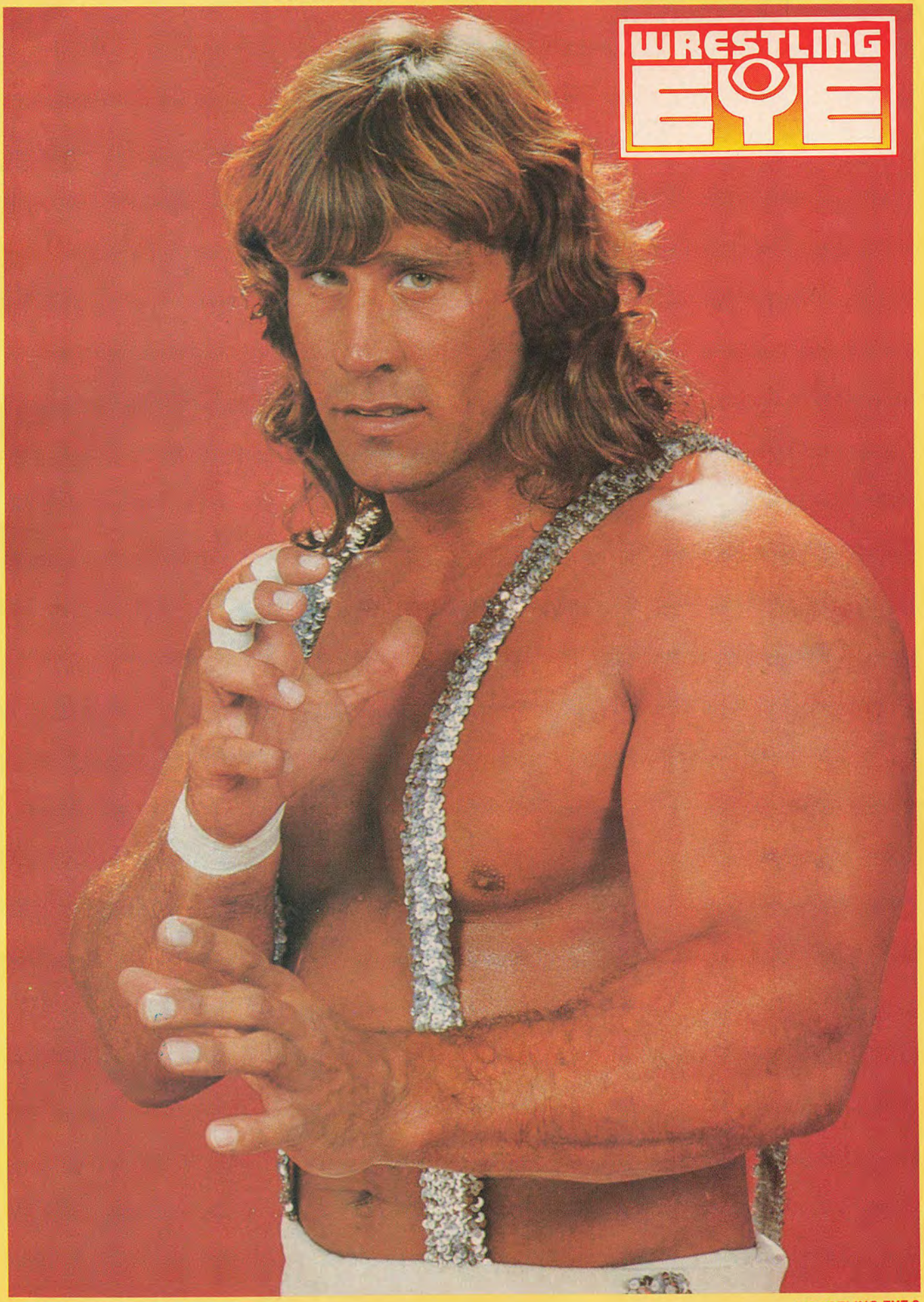
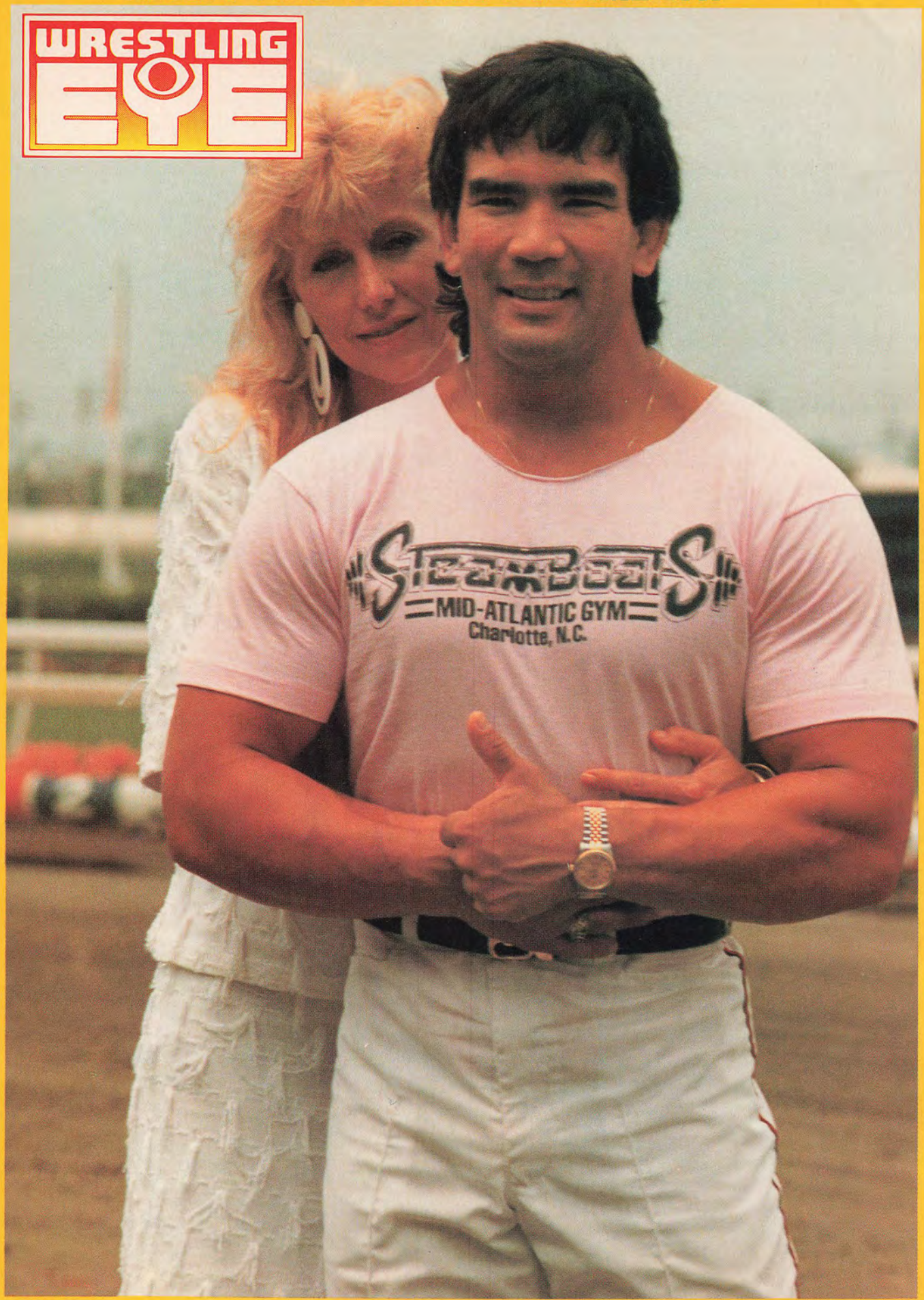
PAT TANAKA

KERRY VON ERICH



RICKY AND BONNIE STEAMBOAT



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From the Editor's Desk....

TODAY'S MANAGERS

Honestly, I don't know how some of these managers can actually call themselves managers. I myself, being a prominent young manager, am appalled at some of these cheap imitations degrading my sport. First off, Jim Cornette. Cornette may be a great talker (but not the best) and possibly one of the (but not) greatest managers in the sport today. But hey, a fluorescent orange jacket does not match with a puke green shirt! Get some taste! Oh yeah, and your counterpart Paul E. Dangerously. He dresses like he just returned from his nephew's bar mitzvah! Oh yeah, Paul E., you're another one with a big mouth, that can wipe his own '***'! Listen for my sake and yours don't degrade this sport. Show some class fellas! Act like men for once in your life!

Obnoxiously yours,

Hubie Marx

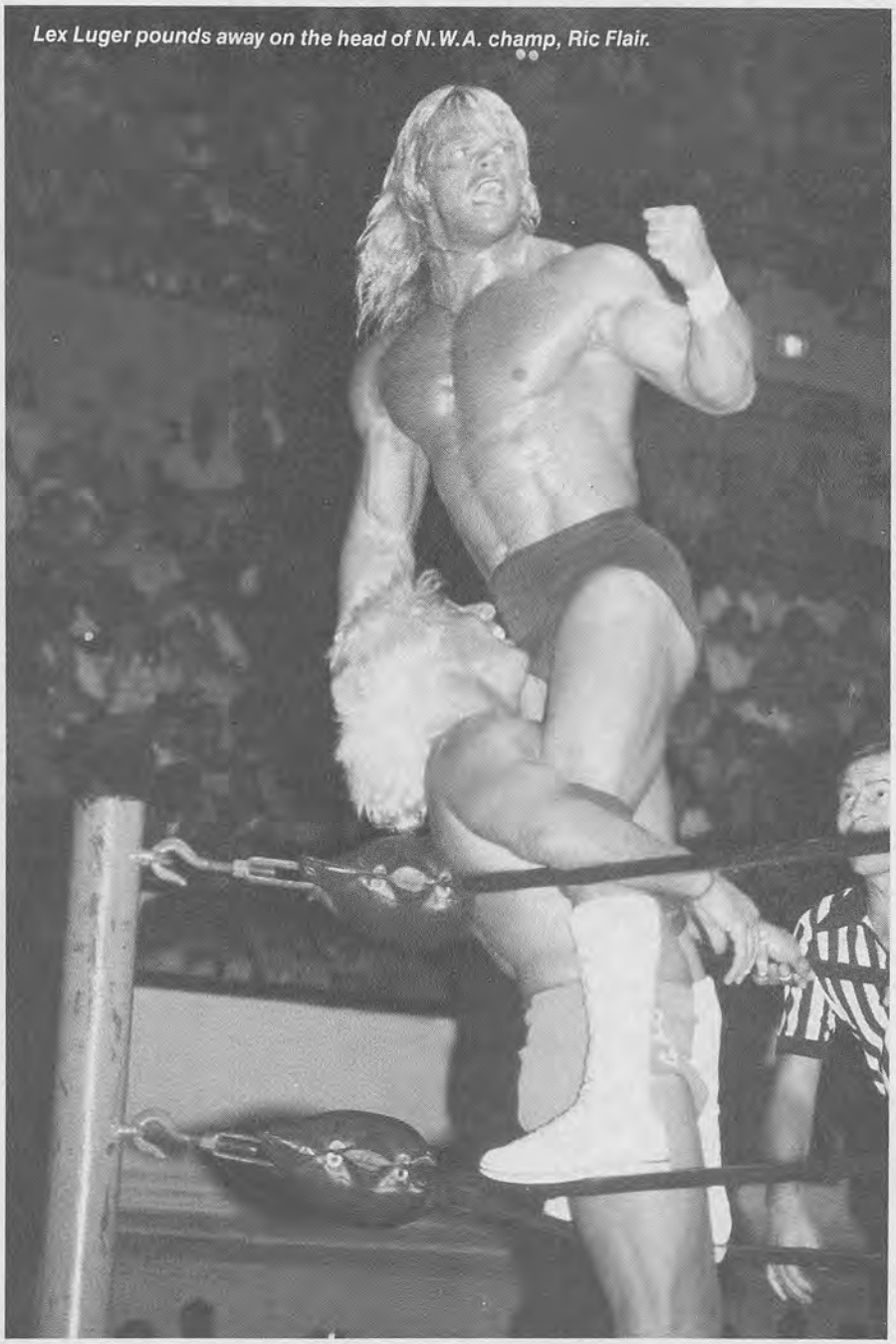
Hubie Marx
Editor, Wrestling Eye Magazine

P.S. All of Hubie's wardrobe is designed exclusively by Nicki's Expressions of New York.

BY FANS DEMAND

Sting vs. Lex Luger!

By DON LIABLE



Lex Luger pounds away on the head of N.W.A. champ, Ric Flair.

Don't laugh it off. The thought has been receiving more and more public and promotional attention. Stranger situations have come to be in the wrestling world. When matchmakers flat out say "no" to the idea, that should send a signal that the proposed meeting between two star athletes is too hot of a topic to discuss in public.

Think back to the past. There have been showdowns involving wrestlers that at one time, the mere mention of a clash between them would have thought to be impossible. Two young, gifted athletes under contract with the National Wrestling Alliance may be the next to have their names etched in stone as being the participants in one of the most sensational one on one challenges the sport has seen in the past half century. Florida's Lex Luger and California's Sting, both in line for title shots with current NWA Heavyweight Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, may, for the advancement of their individual careers, set aside their tightly knit friendship for a day to test each other's skills. This is a battle that the people, those that buy the tickets and travel great distances to, are demanding to be packaged together.

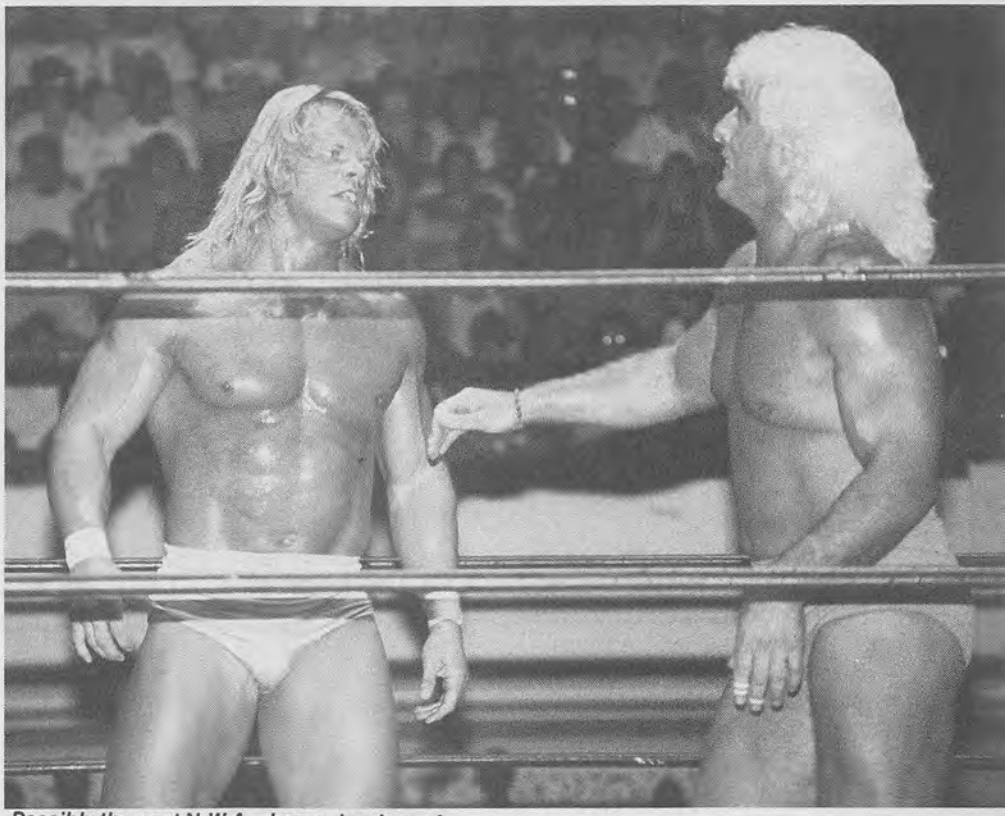
With a clear mind and an open check book, anything is possible. In 1972, over 20,000 fans braved the chilly Autumn weather and sat in New York's Shea Stadium to view former WWWF Champion Bruno Sammartino go for the gold and challenge then current WWWF Heavyweight titlist Pedro Morales. They approached their meeting in a civilized, yet determined manner. When Harley Race was the reigning NWA Champ, "Superstar" Billy Graham put up his WWF title in 1977 against the rival promotion's. Both the belt VS belt confrontation and the Sammartino-Morales match ended in a draw. The main event for Wrestlemania 3 pitted Hulk Hogan against Andre the Giant. At one time, not all that long ago, the Hulkster and Andre were the closest of pals. Hogan retained his title by pinning the 7'5" Frenchman. All of these matches are proof that in the wrestling game, you never say never.

Sting and Lex Luger have climbed up the rankings together. They know what it feels like to stand above the rest of their fellow pros. Perhaps a victory over the other is all that is left for them to prove. In 1988 they teamed to win the prestigious Jim Crockett, Sr. Memorial Tag Team Tournament. Since then, both have improved on their strategy and skill, especially in singles competition. Luger has taken World Champion Flair to his

limits in torturing matches. With Dusty Rhodes in his corner, Sting has given the Road Warriors some of their toughest and most embarrassing outings to date. "Horseman" Barry Windham has also been brutalized by the Stinger. Aside from Flair, they are the two most influential figures in the NWA. There would be no need for them to become involved in an ongoing, bitter, nasty feud. Luger and Sting could go about their encounter in a scientific, respectable, professional manner. Off the cuff, picking who would come out on top of the match is difficult. There are many factors to be considered and there are millions of wrestling enthusiasts just dying to have the opportunity to watch the two main eventers tangle between the ropes.

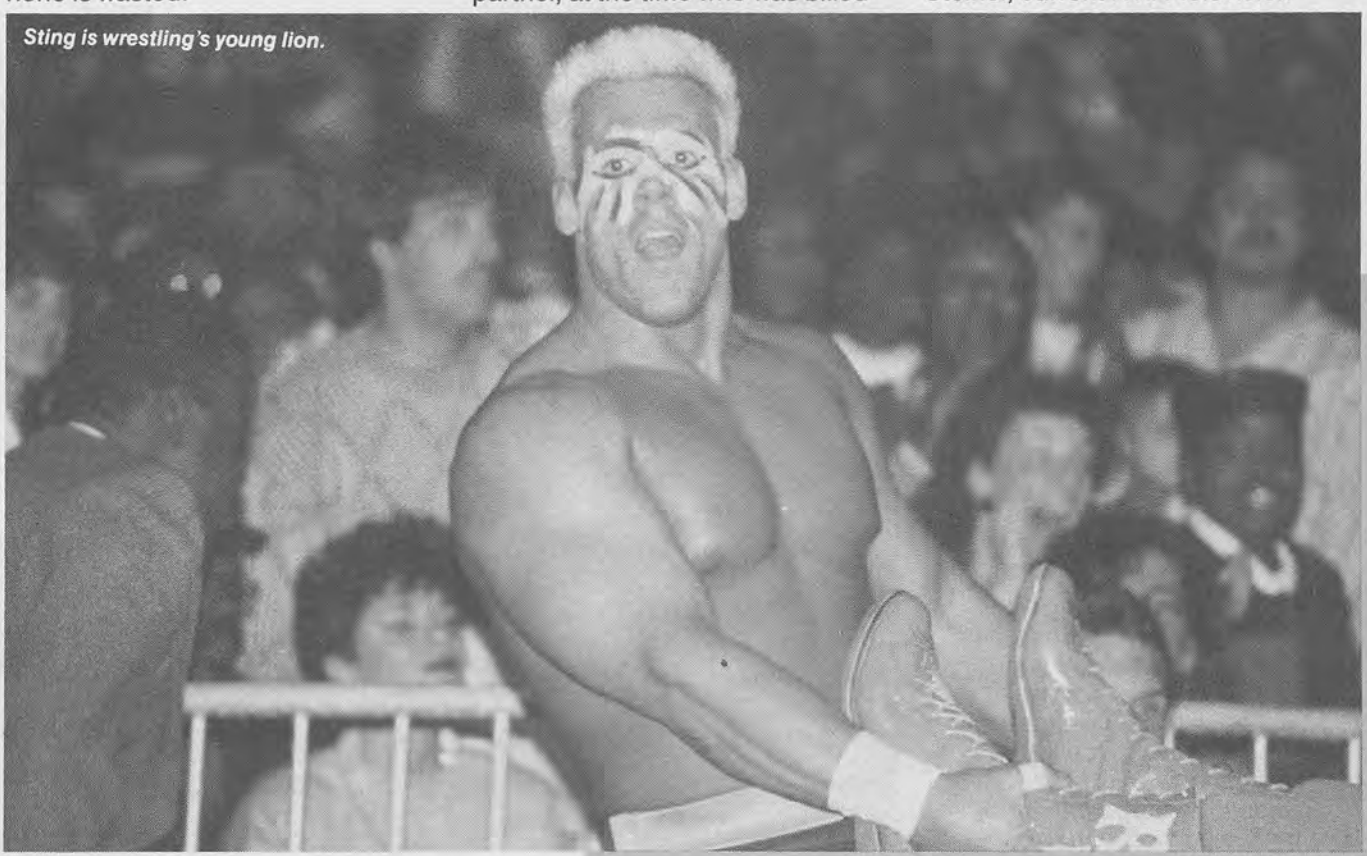
Eddie Gilbert has no doubt as to the outcome of the match.

"Personally speaking, I'd have to give the edge to Sting. We've been around one another since he broke into wrestling. His tremendous leaping ability has slammed the door on many opponents much larger than Luger. Sting's leglocks, once in place, are as tight as a vice. Every move is deliberate. He's got a lot of energy to steam off during a match and he makes sure none is wasted."



Possibly the next N.W.A. champ, Lex Luger!

Sting has made great strides since he finished his training courses conducted by "Flying" Billy Anderson and Red Bastien. He entered the pro ranks in Memphis, Tennessee as one half of the Bladerunners tag team. His partner, at the time who was billed as Bladerunner Rock, now goes by the label of The Ultimate Warrior. Then, Sting was regarded as nothing but muscle. His raw talent needed to be nurtured. The upstart Universal Wrestling Federation allowed him that opportunity. Rick Steiner, current NWA Television

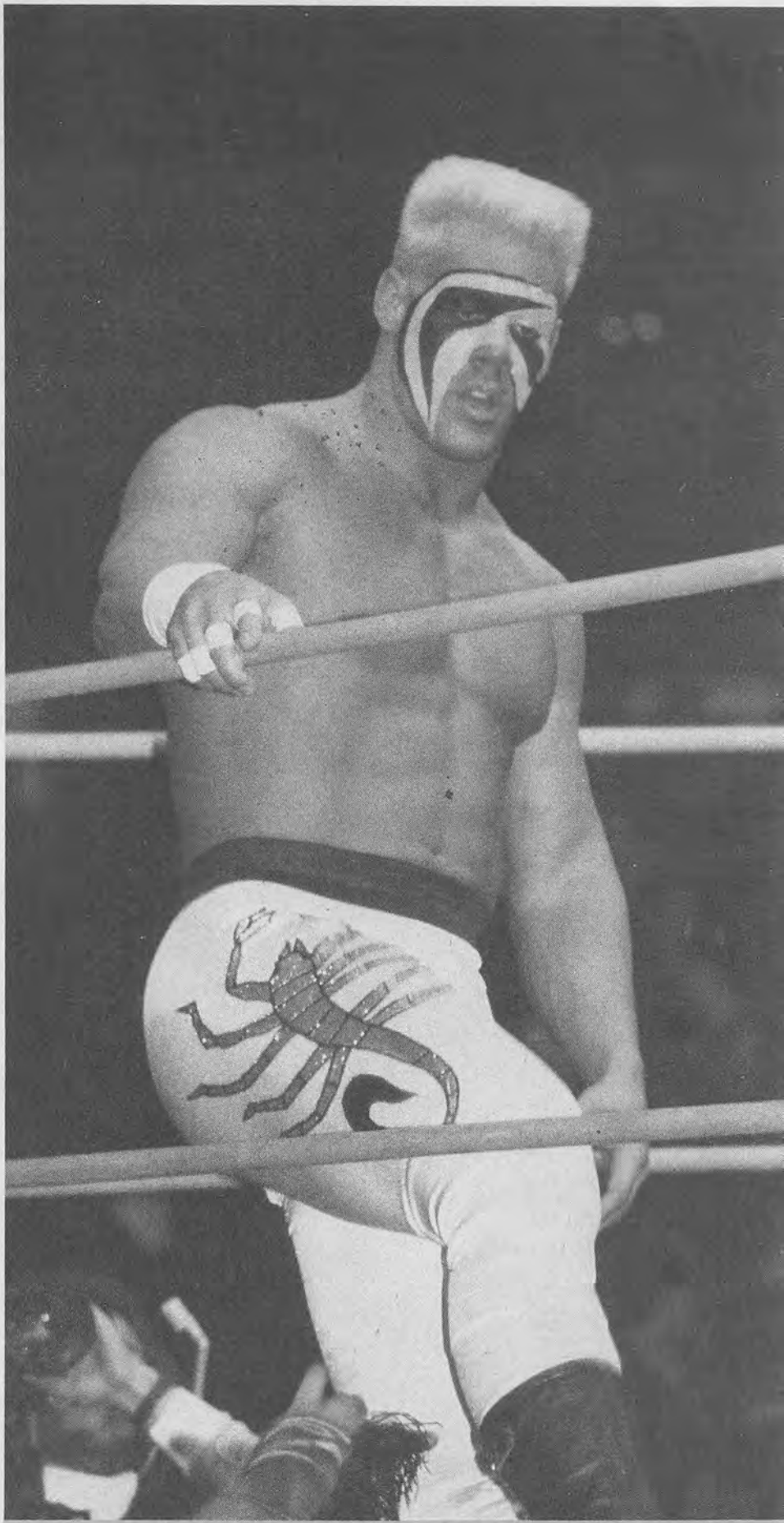


Sting is wrestling's young lion.

Champion, was Sting's partner. They captured the UWF Tag Team Championship. More importantly, they were learning what it took to get ahead in wrestling together. Bill Watts, Eddie Gilbert and Steve Williams taught him a great deal, which Sting admits had enabled him to get where he is today. The One Man Gang and Michael Hayes were two of the many veteran opponents that gave Sting on the job training. He would either sink or swim against such talent. He came through in fine fashion. As then, it is true today, Sting doesn't need a title belt around his waist, he's the people's champion.

He's been called many things but "The Total Package" has stuck as his trademark. Lex Luger has grown up in wrestling, in more ways than one. He entered the NWA in January 1986. On his own, he accomplished what he boasted would be his. With less than two months of NWA action to his credit, James J. Dillon, advisor to the infamous "Four Horsemen" comprised of Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson and Ole Anderson, educated him to the finer points of the grappling game. When Ole was ousted to make room among wrestling's elite group, Luger began to live the life of luxury but at the same time wasn't appreciated by the fans as he would have liked due mainly to his ring behavior. One of his highlights while in the NWA roster has been his winning the United States title from Nikita Koloff. After that memorable match his association with the "Horsemen" went downhill.

There's no honor among thieves. That timeless saying held true once again in 1988. While in Miami, Florida, tempers blew up and his own manager and fellow "Horsemen" not only dumped him but mauled him in an arena parking lot, as he was exiting a limousine. Since then, Luger has been on Flair closer than a shadow. From taking on Flair and Barry Windham, he has had to work harder at perfecting his game and the education has paid off. Luger has become a more well rounded wrestler. Ironically, it was with Windham at his side when they won the NWA Tag Team Championship. Now, when these two stars are in the same ring, they

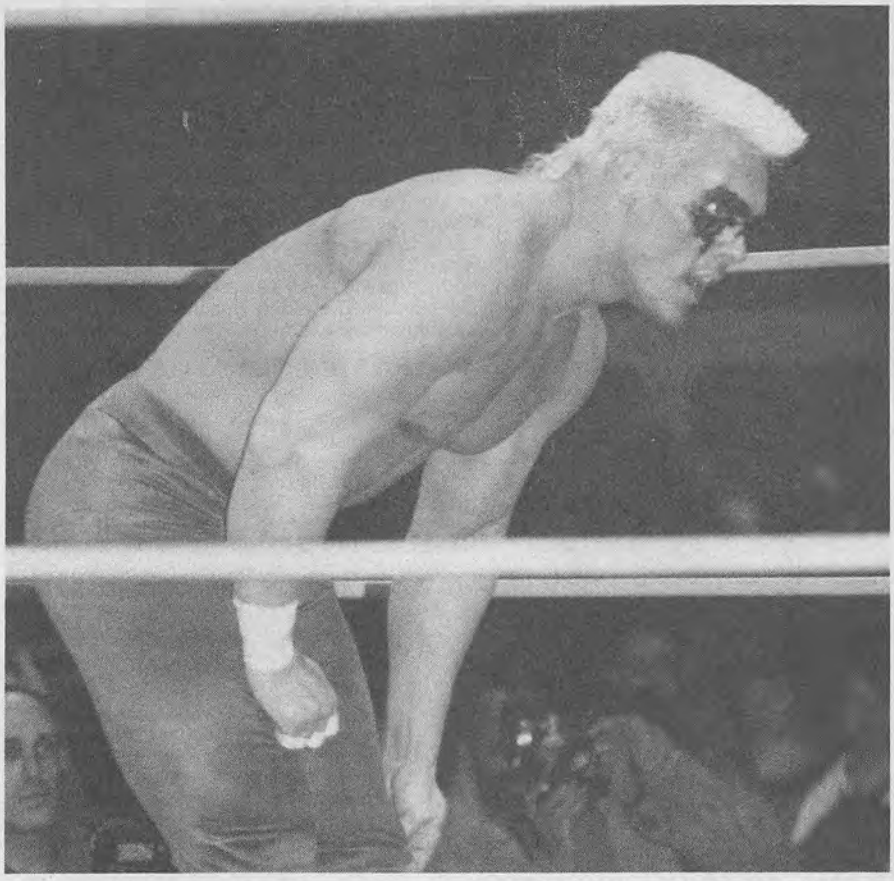


What will ever happen between Sting and Luger?

want to rip each other's heads off. How tough is Lex? Would he be able to stand up to Sting's scorpion leg-lock finishing hold?

Sting has more finesse, more agility in the ring while Luger relies more on strength. Physically, both are in top condition and have proven that they have what it takes to go non-stop for an hour in a match. Should negotiations for a match involving Sting and Luger in opposite corners occur, once the money aspect gets cleared, you can rest assured that both would give supreme efforts, once the bell rings. Before either participant would concede, rest assured, one of them would have to be knocked out cold. "The boys are at the top of their game now. This is the time to match them up. I'd like the chance to help train Luger get ready for Sting. Oliver Humperdink, manager of Bam Bam Bigelow stated.

The Superdome in New Orleans or the Los Angeles Coliseum, both able to easily seat 50,000 or more spectators, would surely be needed to satisfy the tremendous ticket requests. Even Hulk Hogan VS Randy Savage would play second fiddle to this one. Sting and Luger are more wrestling oriented than the WWF's top two entertainers. They are modern day gladiators. Their "dream match" would promise to be a fast paced, high flying contest. Most see it as a defensively minded battle. Until this most definite match of the century can be signed, others will have to fill the void as tune-ups to the big one. Sooner or later they'll have to give in to all the pressure, after all, who doesn't enjoy the idea of a good challenge?



A confrontation between Luger and Sting would be a great one, to say the least.

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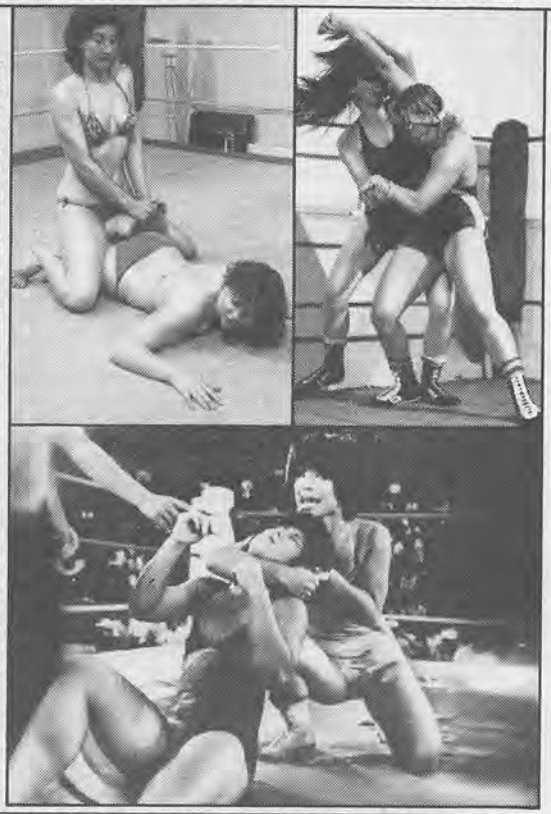
SUBMIT OR SUFFER!

Contains two very **bizarre** matches! In bout #1, Julie and Laurie agree to a match in which only leg hold submissions will determine the winner and they'll fight until one can't continue. The victim is subjected to punishment that is merciless and the gym echoes to cries of pain and screams of submission until one girl cannot continue. In the second bout Penquin and Alison battle furiously. One gains the upper hand and starts punishing her opponent in ways **not** found in the rule book. When it escalates into a brawl, wrestling gives way to chaos! *#RGV-17*



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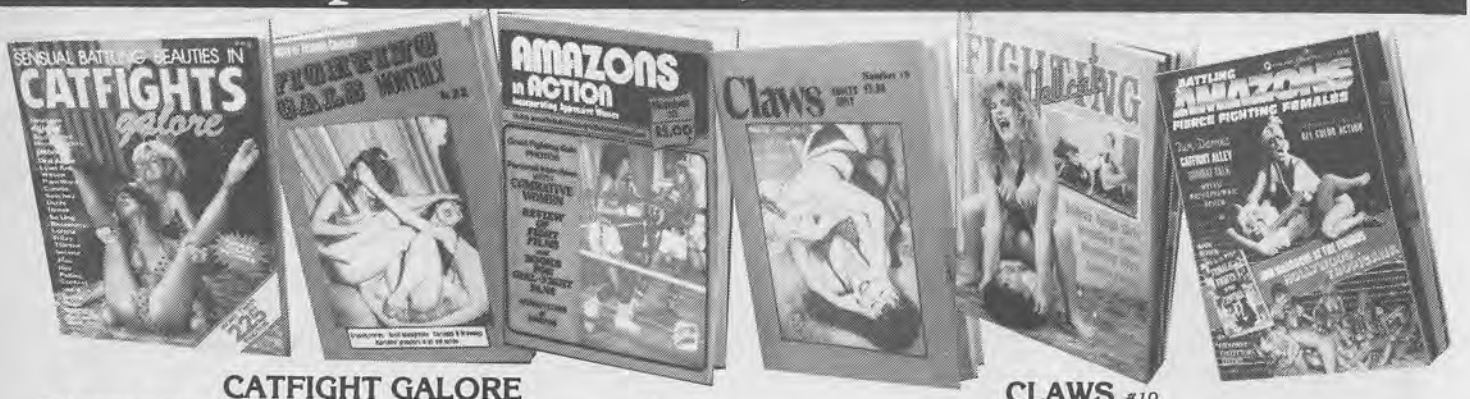

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TOURNAMENT TIGRESSES

Brings you the final matches of the tournament — and they are 3 gems! The first pairs Alison against June. This match erupts into a brawl before the openning bell sounds. The two girls never let up. Both are tough, strong and merciless. Bout 2 features club champion Lorraine, a tall, powerful beauty, against Suzie who is smaller but no less determined. Suzie gives Lorraine a rough time, but finally the champ exhibits a body scissor that goes beyond being punishment . . . it's paralyzing! The final match pits the champ Lorraine against the former champ Shiela. This is a contest you'll long remember. It's female wrestling at it's finest! *#RGV-4*

BIKINI BOXING & WRESTLING

Features those kinky ladies of the British Isles. Bout one between Lori and Julie starts off as a boxing contest, but things quickly get out of hand and the gloves come off. Body slams and knee drops are used with devasting effect. The action is feverish. Highly recommended! The second encounter pits big Chinky, against trim, but murderous, Wilma in a bikini battle for survival. Both combatants are adept at illegal moves. Neither girl can keep contained in the skimpy bikini. A feast for lovers of violent female flesh! *#RGV-11*

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A MESSAGE TO BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Change Now!

By DON LAIBLE

He's been caught up in a name game in an organization filled with "character performers." The glitz and glamour prevalent in the highly visible World Wrestling Federation has claimed yet another athlete, slowly prying him from the wrestling aspect of his career to more emphasis on fan appeal gimmickry. It has proven to work effectively in the short haul but down the road, when a wrestler departs from the WWF, it is extremely difficult for any other major promotion to market that individual as a serious wrestler. Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, for the past six years a headliner in the Federation, appears to be heading for wrestling doom. His credibility among veteran mat fans is dwindling. An athletically gifted competitor, however, the decision needs to be made immediately. The report card on his time spent within the WWF, thus far is nothing special.

"Outlaw" Ron Bass is the latest victim of the kind of punishment Beefcake can dish out, when he concentrates on wrestling, and not so much on which way he'll be cutting his opponents hair. Having flair and a professional personality to separate himself from the rest of his peers is totally and unconditionally accepted. If a wrestler isn't "different", he won't last long in the spotlight. Beefcake's recent feud with Bass was proof that with the right combination of showmanship and athletic ability a wrestler can not only be successful but respected as well.

In front of anyone who would listen and watch, including television audiences in the millions, Bass attempted to permanently injure and embarrass Beefcake. Bass made the scene ugly as he used his boot spurs to slice open his opponent's forehead. Semi-unconscious and in no way able to defend himself from Bass' beating, Beefcake, who calls San Francisco, California his home, rested for a week as doctors didn't want the stitches to be disturbed. When the order was given that he could resume his competitive schedule, the "Outlaw" retreated.

Brutus probably can't believe how little he's progressed in such a long period of time.

When Beefcake cut up Bass' bullwhip, which he affectionately calls "Miss Betsy," and his ten gallon black hat Bass was infuriated. However, the worse was yet to be administered. Being billed as "The Barber", should give you enough of a hint as to what was in store for the "Outlaw."

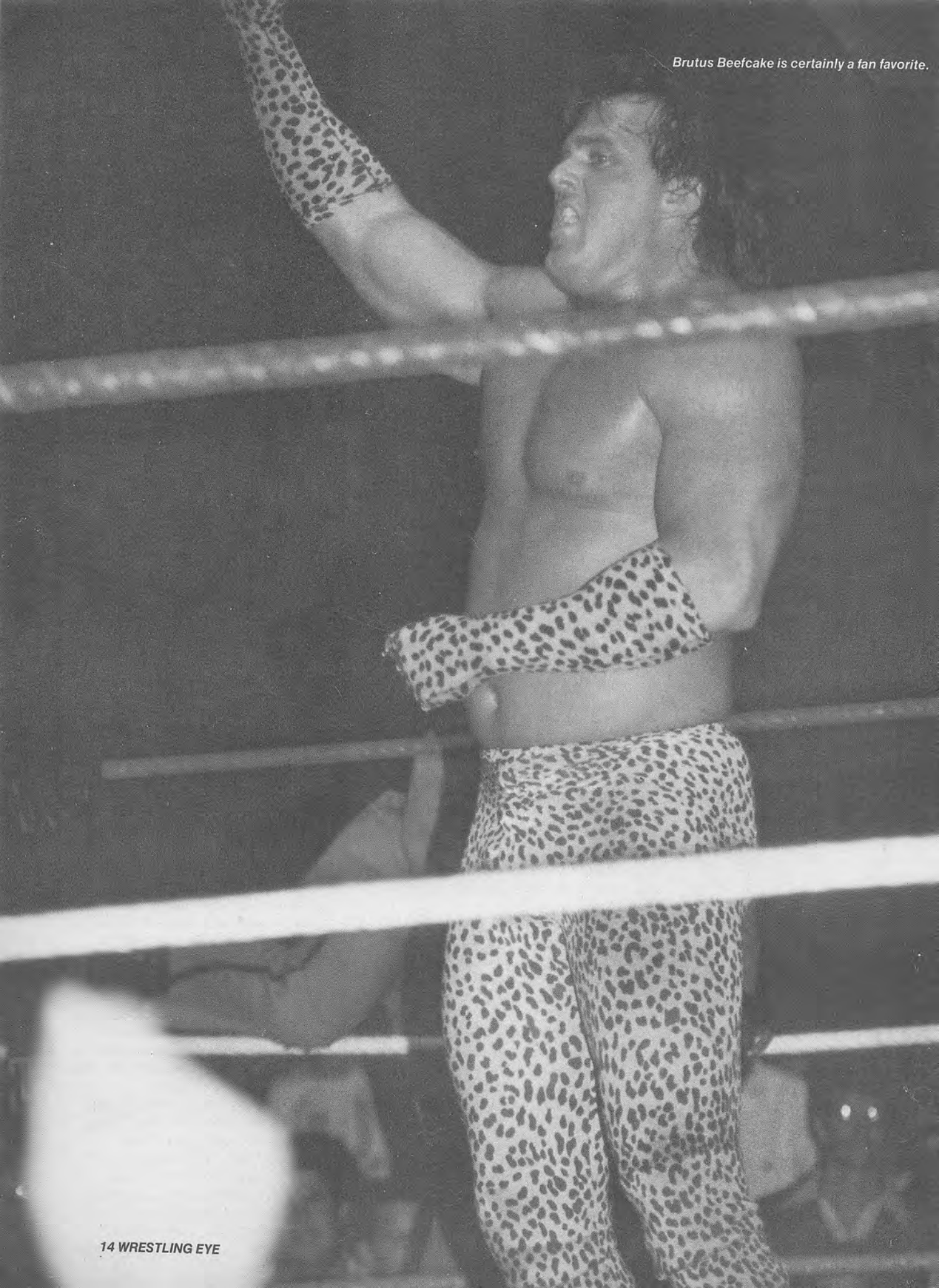
The showdown between the two was set in a "hair versus hair"

Beefcake has never been able to hold a title on his own.

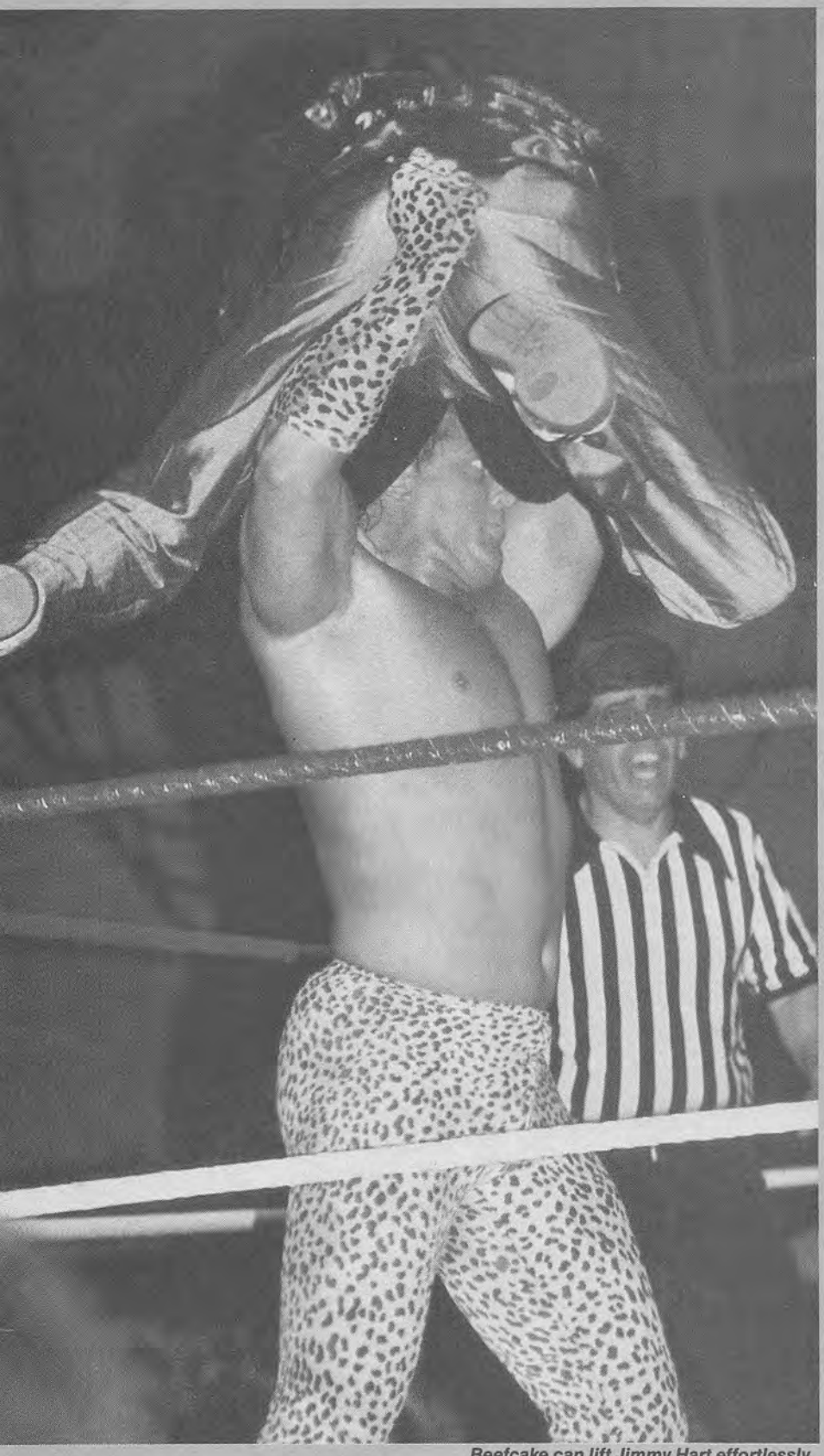
match to be shown on network television. Revenge couldn't have smelled sweeter for Beefcake. The sleeper hold which has come through for him in the clutch before worked perfectly this time as well. It wasn't much of a battle, Beefcake didn't allow Bass' offensive attack to get rolling. At the five minute mark, it was "lights out time" for the "Outlaw." Caught up in the sleeper hold, Bass laid on the canvas belly up. With the rough stuff out of the way, it was cutting time. Not only scissors but an electric razor was used to shape Bass' hair into a crew cut. Brutus Beefcake took care of business his way.

Now with the "Outlaw" out of his path, a new, more versatile foe has set his sights on Beefcake. Quicker, younger and more highly trained from the amateur ranks, "Mr. Perfect"—Curt Hennig has declared wrestling war on Beefcake. The strategy employed with Bass won't wash when squaring off with Hennig. The American Wrestling Association Heavyweight Championship and co-holder of their tag team title with Scott Hall are among the numerous prestigious accomplishments captured by "Mr. Perfect". Since his arrival in the WWF, Curt has been negotiating to land a series of matches with a bonafide championship caliber opponent. Beefcake is the chosen one.

There won't be much time for the shaking and strutting, not to mention walking around the ring with a mirror and other assorted barber paraphernalia Beefcake carries. One mistake, any over-confidence shown in the same ring with "Mr. Perfect" and his challenger bites the dust. Pure and simple. This is a test for Brutus to put aside his "act" and devote his total energies to what shot him to the top of his profession in the first place, wrestling. One of the questions circulating among the wrestling communities is will Beefcake be able to function in the ring, in top form, while having his "barbershop" left in the dressing room? Being able to separate those two personalities is critical, should Brutus want to come out on the winning side. Time will tell.



Brutus Beefcake is certainly a fan favorite.



Beefcake can lift Jimmy Hart effortlessly.

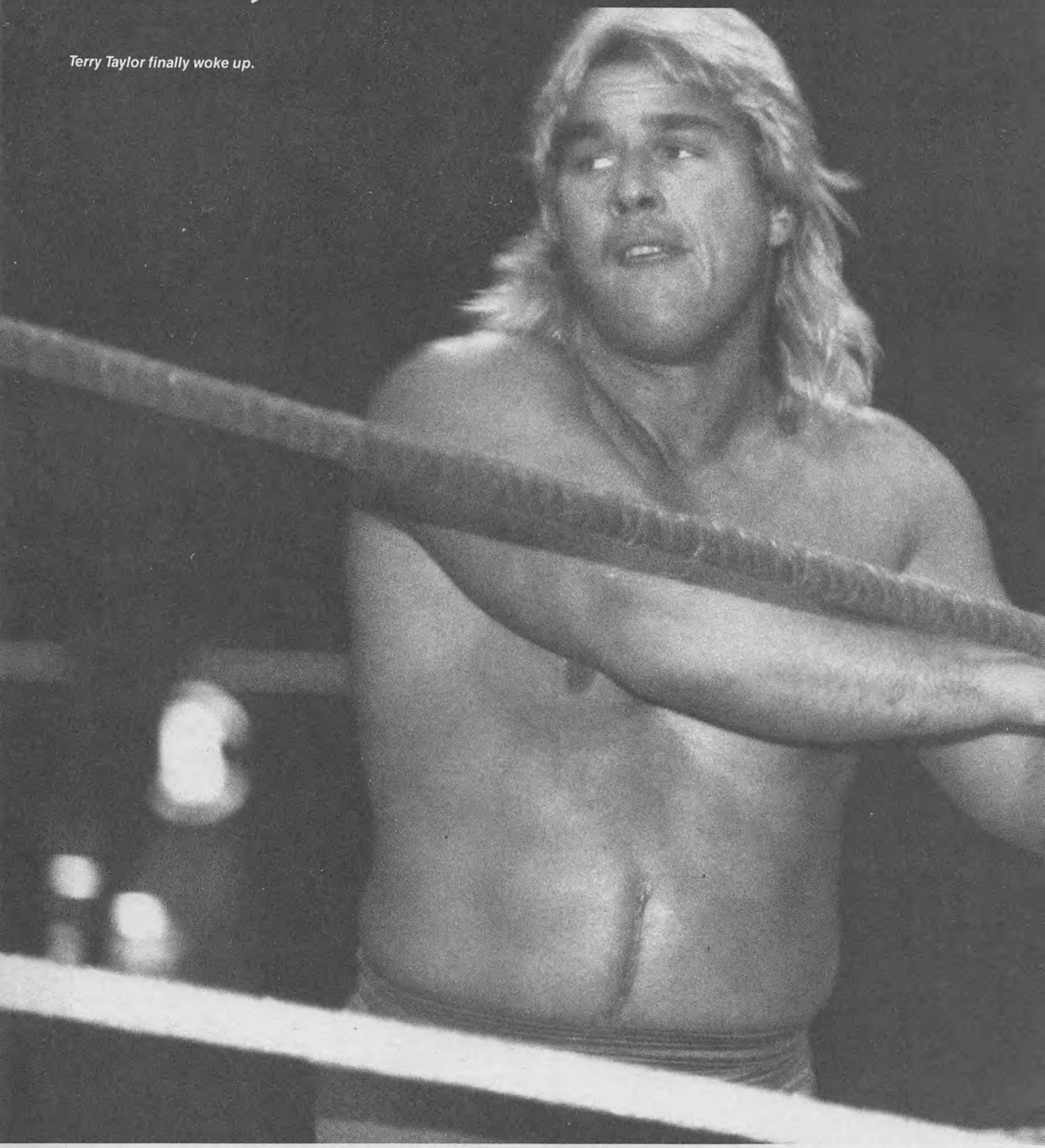
As alluded to earlier, since the "Barber" gimmick took control of his career goals, it's been difficult to figure out what Beefcake has planned for the future. More times than not he's strayed away from the know-how that brought him to the top of the WWF roster. When Johnny Valiant managed him with Greg "The Hammer" Valentine as his partner, the Federation's tag team belts were theirs. To this day, Beefcake admits that Valiant had him in the best shape of his career and taught him so many valuable lessons on how to react during a given situation while in the ring.

"We won the WWF belts from a super team. Barry Windham and Mike Rotunda are two of the best all-around schooled wrestlers. today. "The Hammer" and I just plain out muscled them in the match. They were tough to get a grip on, believe me. But, the British Bulldogs were the team that confused us the most. We did well against them but when we had an off-night they took the title from us. I think about that match a lot. It's too bad the situation between Greg and me is different today. To have another chance at the Bulldogs, no matter where they are, would be perfect in every way," Beefcake said.

It' s no secret that Hulk Hogan is one of Brutus' closest friends in and out of the arenas. Perhaps he should become friendlier with some of the more skillful, wrestling oriented men in the WWF. Popular yes, athletic—no. Hogan, who insists on being thought of as the Hulkster, has but only one wrestling move, in his entire ring repetoire which, for the majority of the time, allows him to last only ten minutes against opponents. A simple "first day in class" demonstrated leg drop, is all he utilizes. All the playing to the crowd and posing Hogan does before, during and after a match, may be the single most influential reason as to why Beefcake has become so showmanship oriented in recent years.

Tag team competition is the road many fellow wrestlers and fans feel Brutus should take. It has been rather kind to him in the past. Then, once and for all, the "Barber" gimmick will get out of his system. There are several top pros, right in the WWF from which he can choose from. Sam Houston, Ron Garvin and Rick Martel are the leading candidates insiders have picked for Beefcake to form an alliance with. Teaming with one or all three of these stars may get the "eye of the tiger", the fighting spirit back into him, full-time. His comical, entertaining behavior has worn itself thin with his faithful followers. It's back to the basics for Beefcake or he could very well be in for a rough ride in wrestling.

BYE, BYE ROOSTER

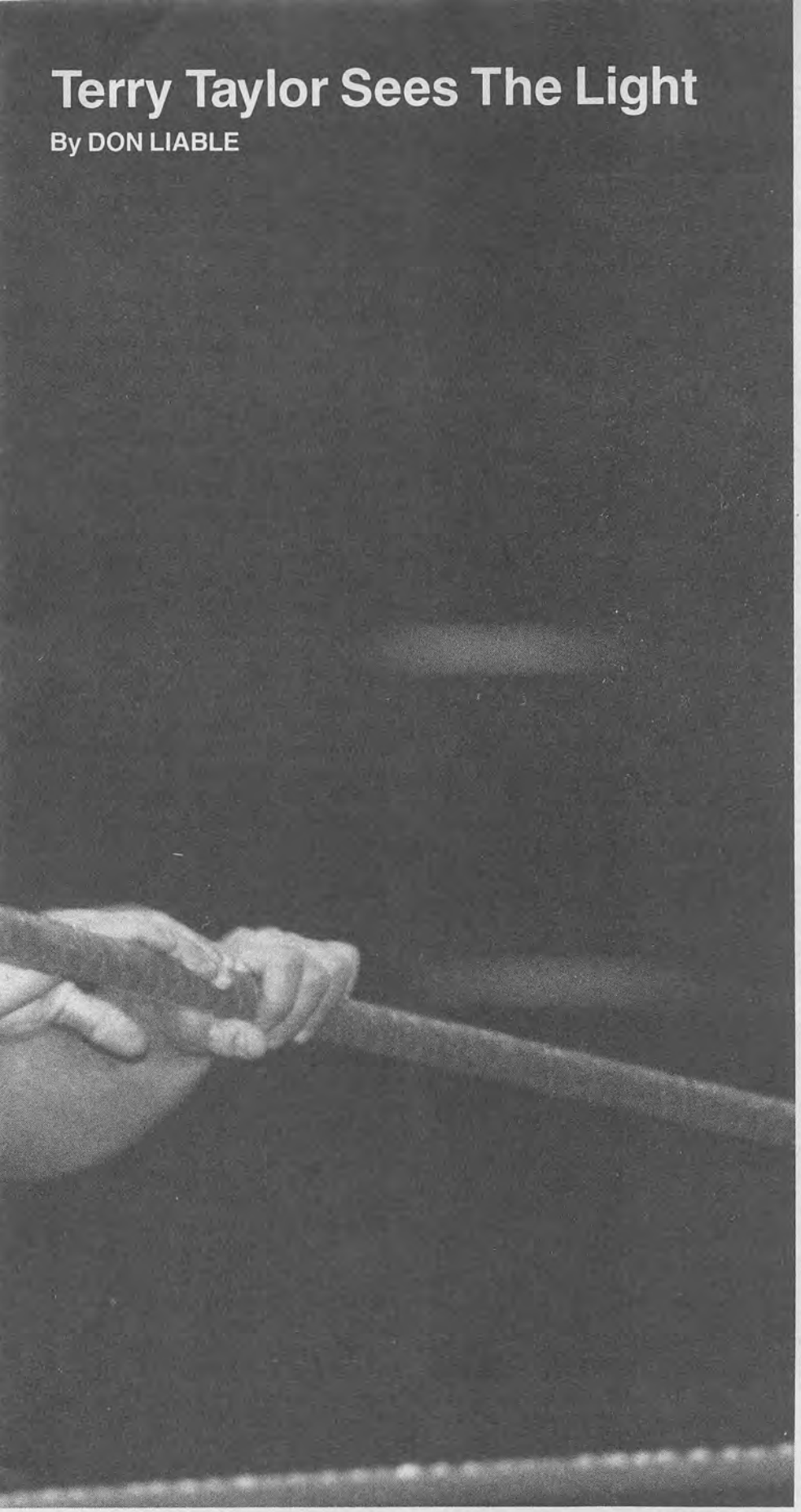


Terry Taylor finally woke up.

You can't get more professional than Terry Taylor. As wrestlers go, everything about him, from the clothes he wears outside the arenas to the work habits between the ropes, is first class. He's worked harder than the majority of his fellow grapplers to achieve stardom. Now, more than just his name is known by mat fans worldwide. As a member of the World Wrestling Federation, his matches are not

Terry Taylor Sees The Light

By DON LIABLE



only scrutinized by millions of followers but his talents are equally appreciated. The success experienced with the National Wrestling Alliance and Universal Wrestling Federation has taken a back seat to the notoriety the Vero Beach, Florida native now receives. It's been a long time coming, Terry Taylor's paid his dues and is well deserving of the highly publicized, well trained opponents matchmakers are lining him up with.

Terry was never the "wet-behind-the-ears rookie" that Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, along with various promoters, wanted the wrestling public to believe. Now, hopefully the WWF hierarchy will let Taylor turn his talents loose, as was the case when he toured with the NWA and UWF, and show the whole world just what a skilled wrestler he truly is. Forget the "Red Rooster" label slapped on him upon his entrance into the WWF. "Scary" Terry Taylor, as he refers to himself, is more fitting. Whether adhering to the rulebook or not during a given matchup, even the most talented of veterans have been confused and frustrated when trying to put him down for the three count.

The handsome, clean-cut, All-American appearance projected by Taylor, at times, is misleading. In every promotion, prior to his landing a contract with the WWF, there wasn't a championship belt, of which caught his fancy, that he didn't add to his list of achievements. In the Memphis, Tennessee based Continental Wrestling Association, the Southern Heavyweight Title was worn by him. In Texas' World Class Championship Wrestling, the Texas Heavyweight belt became his property and while in the UWF, he held the group's television championship. His reputation is one that remarkably resembles another recognized champ, "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. Right down to the lettering on his trunks and boots, plus wearing the same type of ring robes as the NWA World Champion, Taylor is often times thought of as a Flair clone.

"We didn't always see eye to eye when I was with the NWA but I have the utmost respect for Ric. He has gotten better at an age where many people thought he would be slowing down. Once when we were booked on the same program in Orlando, Florida, we worked out in the gym and in the ring hours before the matches were to begin. Man, let me tell you from first hand experience, Ric dropkicks egos faster than you know what hit you. At the time, I thought I knew all

Taylor is one of the finest in the world.

there was to learn about wrestling. After an hour and a half practicing holds, my attitude changed. To this day, I do less talking and more listening. Flair is one tough son of a gun,'' Taylor said before a match in Utica, New York.

When Taylor arrived in the WWF, not sure as to where he'd fit in with his new surroundings, Heenan was his avenue to the spotlight. After realizing what poor judgement he used in signing ''The Brain'' on as his manager, Taylor is determined to prove that he's more than a gimmick but a darn good wrestler. Basically, Heenan attempted, match after match, to steal the credit for Taylor's accomplishments. Terry took all the poundings and other physical abuse and his manager acted as if it was *he* who did all the hard work. The partnership between Terry Taylor and Bobby Heenan came to a dissolving point in the ''Sunshine State'' earlier this year.

Tito Santana, a respected, long time wrestling fan favorite in the Federation, was pitted against Taylor for a match to be viewed by millions on national television. Obviously with the years of experience Santana had over his opponent, Taylor was the underdog heading into the contest. Besides having to content with his cagey challenger, Taylor had Heenan constantly calling for his attention at ringside. Also, another intimidating, powerful individual, N.Y. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, was seated in the first row of chairs. Talk about working under pressure! Instead of letting his protege do what he does best, wrestle, Heenan kept throwing his ''two cents'' into the performance of his ''Red Rooster.'' His so-called help proved to be destructive and humiliating for his wrestler. When Heenan began scolding Taylor and belittling him for what was going on in the ring, a shoving match ensued between them. After managing to get back to the canvas before being counted out by the referee, Heenan's distracting verbal assault rang on. As Taylor turned his back on his opponent, in attempts to quiet his menacing advisor, Santana snuck up from behind and rolled him up for the pin.

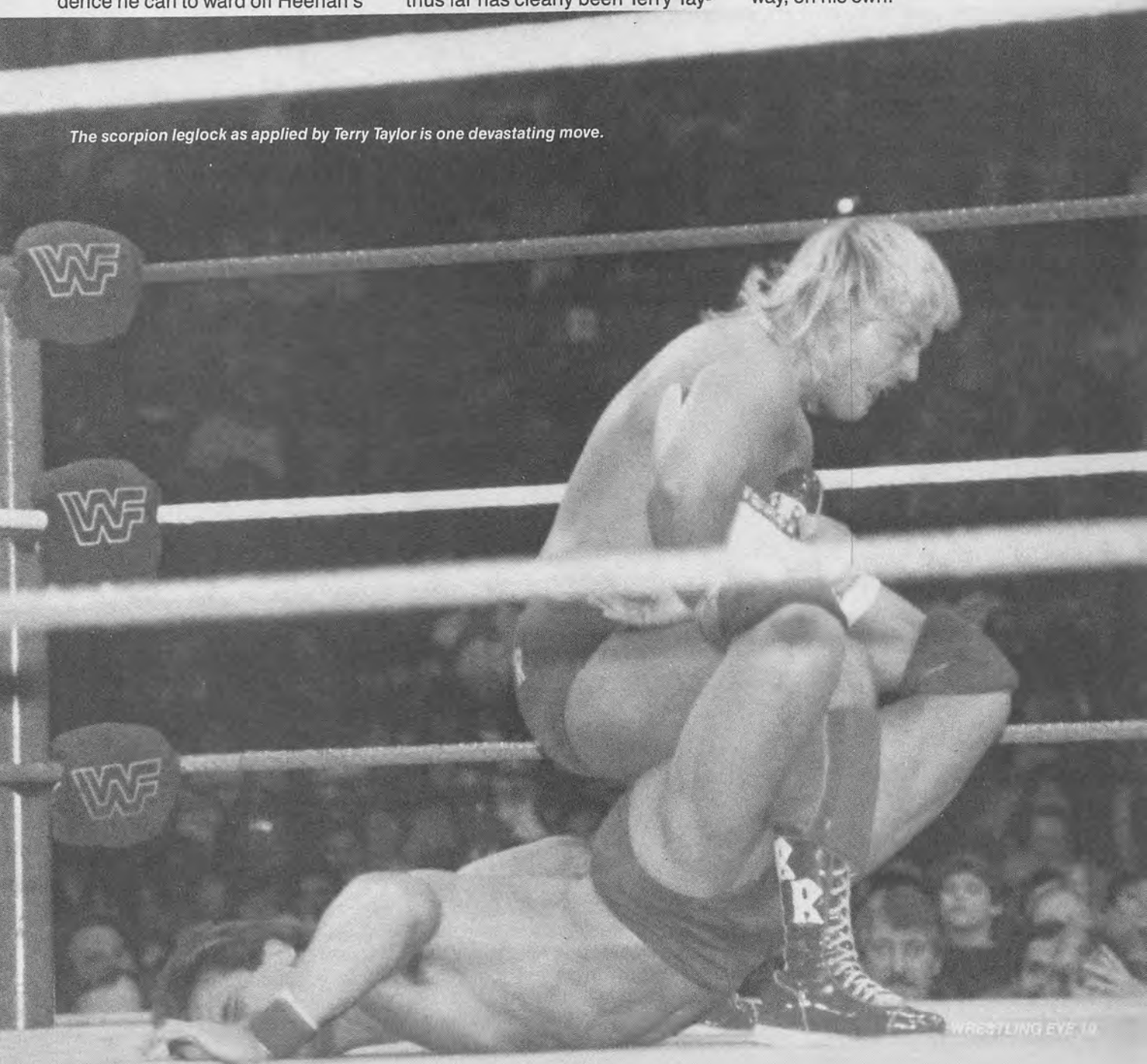
Not only did Bobby Heenan cause Terry Taylor to be defeated, but what hurt even more was it took place before nearly a dozen relatives on hand. That match was the straw that ''broke the camel's back''. Right then and there, Terry fired Heenan as his coach, advisor and representative. Not only was he relieved over that decision but Taylor's legion of fans were equally ecstatic over the move. Already handshakes and new friendships have been coming in steadily.

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, Steve Lombardi, The Brainbusters: Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, Rick Rude and even 7′ 5″ 500 lb. Andre the Giant,

all members of the Heenan stable, have made moves directed at Taylor. At 6′ 1″ 230 lbs. Taylor isn't the most intimidating athlete among the WWF ranks but he very rarely has ever had trouble with anyone, one on one. Perhaps it's because growing up in Florida with such big name wrestlers as Eddie and Mike Graham showing him how to "take care of business" in the ring, his confidence level has always been inflated to the maximum. He takes the attitude with each match and there honestly isn't a man he can't beat. To succeed and enjoy a lengthy stay in the talent rich WWF, he's going to need all the confidence he can to ward off Heenan's attack.

Call them tune-ups or just plain important challengers but Terry Taylor has given warning to all competitors that he means business. The Blue Blazer and Sam Houston, two young and acrobatic wrestlers, have fallen short in match ups with Taylor. Houston, at five inches taller than Terry, hasn't been able to use that extra height to his advantage. By no means is Houston to be sold short on his hard luck losses. He has the credentials to be in the WWF. The Central States and Mid-Atlantic Championships were his at one time. The better of the two men thus far has clearly been Terry Taylor. Flips, dips, and leaps are what opponents of the Blazer are in store for when they tangle with him. The more Taylor watches videos on him, the less difficulty he has in figuring out the strategies of his challenger.

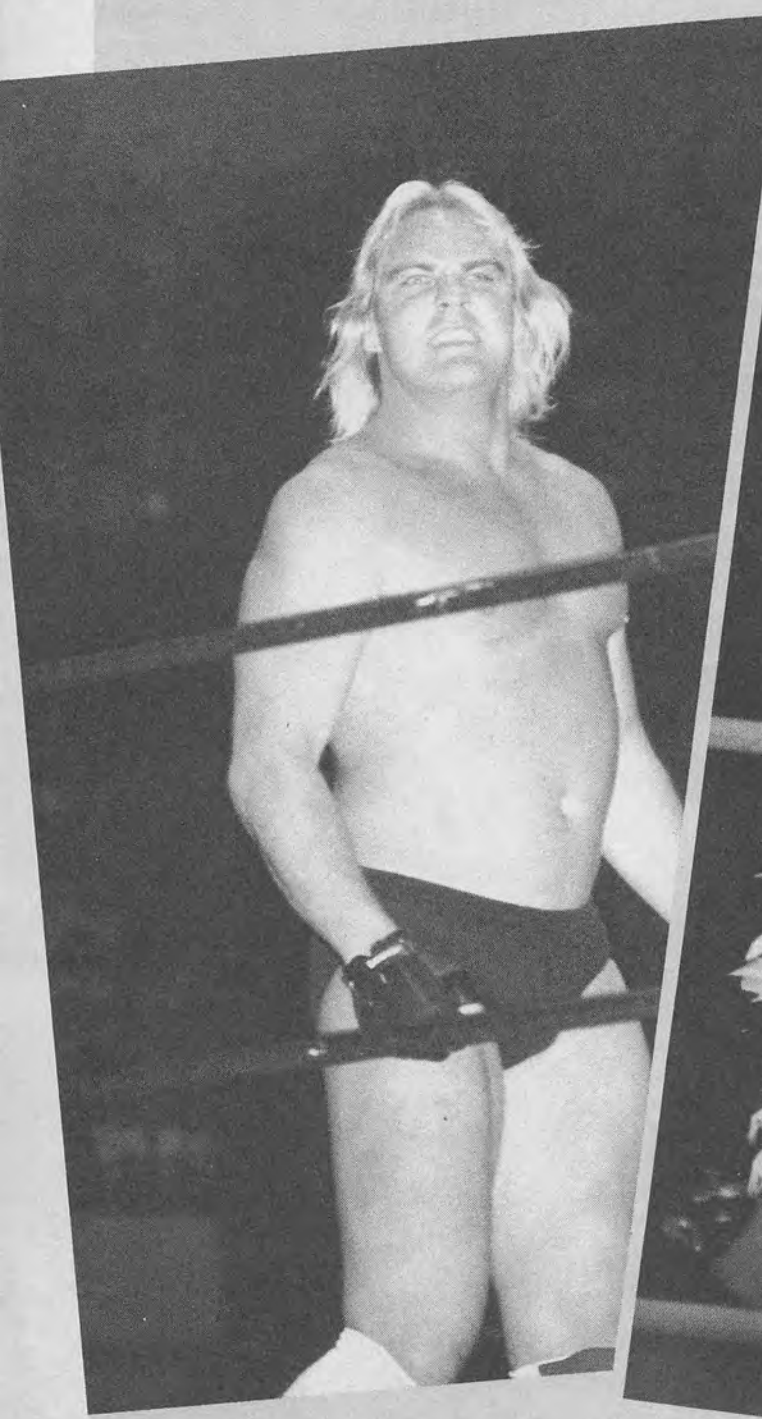
As gentle looking as a bear, but as cunning and damaging as one, Terry Taylor is one of the leaders of the future. He is a man to ensure stability and credibility among the WWF wrestling ranks for years to come. His time to shine is now. There aren't any complaints from the fans. Everyone appears to be rallying around him, and why not? He's earned everything the hard way, on his own.



The scorpion leglock as applied by Terry Taylor is one devastating move.

Flair And Windham Tell All!

A CHAT WITH THE CHAMPS



By TOM CLUTTERS

The past year has been a turbulent one for the Four Horsemen. In 1988, they went from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the valley; at one time, they held the four most prestigious titles in the National Wrestling Alliance. Nature Boy Ric Flair was, of course, the world champion; the newest Horseman, Barry Windham, defeated Dusty Rhodes for the U.S. title; and Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard had recaptured the world tag team belts. In short, manager James J. Dillon and company had it all.

Things began to unravel for wrestling's premier organization in late summer. Anderson and Blanchard became embroiled in a vicious feud with Jim Cornette's Midnight Express, and wound up losing their titles on September 10. Just a few hours later, the ex-champions left the Horsemen and the NWA for greener pastures in the World Wrestling Federation, leaving a huge void in Dillons arsenal. Flair and Windham continued to maintain their title grips, but both were rumored to be disenchanted with Dillon's management. J.J. desperately attempted to keep the remainder of his organization together, and as 1989 rolled into its second month, he made a couple of moves. First, he signed Hacksaw Butch Reed to serve as a "bodyguard" and unofficial Horseman. The arrival of Reed reportedly soothed Flair to a degree, since he often depended on physical interference from his friends to keep his title. Then, in an effort to make the U.S. champion happy, Dillon managed to get Barry's younger brother, Kendall Windham, to accept a substantial personal services contract. Apparently, Dillon figured that things would settle down and return to normal.

He was badly mistaken.

In late January, the arrival of Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat in the NWA threw the Horsemen camp back into turmoil. The Dragon, at one time Flair's closest friend and confidant, has always had a burning desire to be a world champion, and Flair has secretly dreaded the day when Steamboat would return. "It's my personal opinion that Rick fears Ricky Steamboat more than any man in wrestling," noted TV commentator Jim Ross. "They were very close friends at one time, and the Steamer knows just about all there is to know about the world champion."

So, once again, the Four (or two) Horsemen find their backs against the wall. Recently, it was whispered that Flair was becoming somewhat aggravated with Windham, since Barry was unable to put Steamboat away on several occasions. We managed, after a long period of trying, to track down the principals involved in this interesting turn of events, and ask a few questions. First, we talked with Flair.

Will Flair soon be hurting because of Windham?

WE: Champ, it's been quite a trying time for the Horsemen lately. How are you holding up personally?

RF: Do I look like I'm holding up? I've never felt better, I've never looked better! I'm still THE man in this sport, and that says it all.

WE: You would still have to admit that everything hasn't been exactly perfect, though?

RF: When you have a group of premier professional athletes like the Horsemen, and when you have as much power and influences as we do, people are always going to try to make trouble. The bottom line is, all of these jerks that are starting vicious rumors about the Horsemen, they're just jealous.

WE: Would you say that Rick Steamboat is merely jealous?

RF: Rick Steamboat has no business being here in the first place! He should be back home, running his nice little gym, and taking care of his wife and little boy.

WE: I don't think I have to remind you that he scored a clear pinfall, on national television, over you in January.

RF: Let me tell you something, pal. J.J. Dillon signed a contract for Barry Windham and myself to face Eddie Gilbert and a mystery partner that day. We had no idea who the mystery man would be, so that fluke pinfall never went down in the record books. Rick Steamboat has never pinned Ric Flair!

WE: Well, are you blaming Dillon for not asking questions before he signed the contract?

RF: Don't be trying to put words in my mouth! The fact is, Steamboat and that punk Gilbert had to stoop to new lows to pull a fast one.

WE: There have been reports of some friction between Barry Windham and yourself...

RF: Who the hell said so? You're just making this stuff up, right? Barry Windham is probably the greatest U.S. champion of all time, and a tremendous athlete. We have to protect each other, and we're doing just that.

WE: Some people have said that you're upset because he hasn't been able to get Steamboat out of your hair.

RF: That's ridiculous! The Nature Boy doesn't need any help to take care of Ricky Steamboat. I've heard just about all of this s--- that I wanna hear! Interview over. (With that, the champion got up

and left the room).

We had apparently struck a nerve with the Nature Boy, so we decided to follow the same line of questioning with Windham.

WE: Barry, just how much tension is there in the Horseman camp?

BW:I don't know what you're talking about.

WE: Okay, I'll be more specific. We've heard that you and Ric have had some trouble, and that you both have expressed your displeasure with some of J.J.'s decisions.

BW: If Ric and I have any disagreements, that's between us. It's nobody's business what we do. We are the two best in the NWA, and we produce. That's all you or anyone else needs to worry about.

WE: What was your reaction to Dillon making an offer to your brother?

BW: Kendall made a business decision, pure and simple. He was going nowhere by trying to pander to the fans, and teaming with the son of Dusty Rhodes was a step backward, in my opinion. Working with myself and Ric Flair, he will learn what the real world is all about. He'll learn, and he'll become rich.

WE: You don't think that Dillon did it just to keep you happy?

BW: James saw a lot of raw talent and potential in Kendall, and that's the only reason he made him a contract offer. It had nothing to do with trying to keep me happy.

Having spoken with Barry Windham several times previously, we couldn't help but notice his sullen attitude toward anything and everything. With this in mind, we finally cornered J.J. Dillon, shortly before he made his way to the WWF.

WE: J.J., we just finished talking with Ric Flair and Barry Windham, and it's pretty obvious that there's something brewing.

JJD: I cannot imagine what would make you say something like that. I can assure you and your readers that my champions are just tired, that's all. It has been a grueling last two weeks for all of us, and Mr. Flair and Mr. Windham are merely in need of a little rest and relaxation.

WE: Maybe so, but Flair seemed greatly upset at the arrival of Ricky Steamboat in the NWA, and Barry

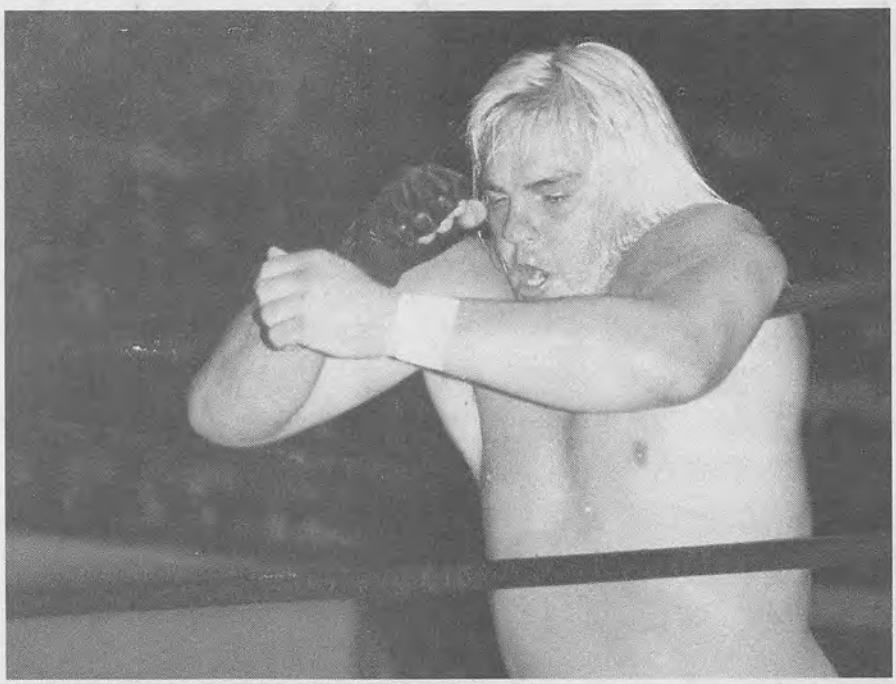
This man could be called "The Wrestler of the Century".

was quiet and moody, to say the least. He didn't even seem overly excited to be wrestling with his brother again.

JJD: Of course the world champion was upset about Steamboat. I must admit it, it caught us by surprise, but just as we've always done, we'll take care of it. As for Barry and Kendall, they just haven't had a lot of time to work together yet, but that will take care of itself when time allows.

WE: So, if we're to believe what you're telling us, everything is fine and dandy with the Horsemen?

JJD: Of course! We are still the greatest force in professional wrestling, and the addition of Hacksaw Butch Reed and Kendall Windham has made us even stronger. There's absolutely nothing for our fans to worry about.



The future is nuclear for Barry Windham.

Big Barry takes his opponent down to size.

VINCE McMAHON REVEALED!

By TOM CLUTTERS

This man is responsible for making wrestling what it is today!

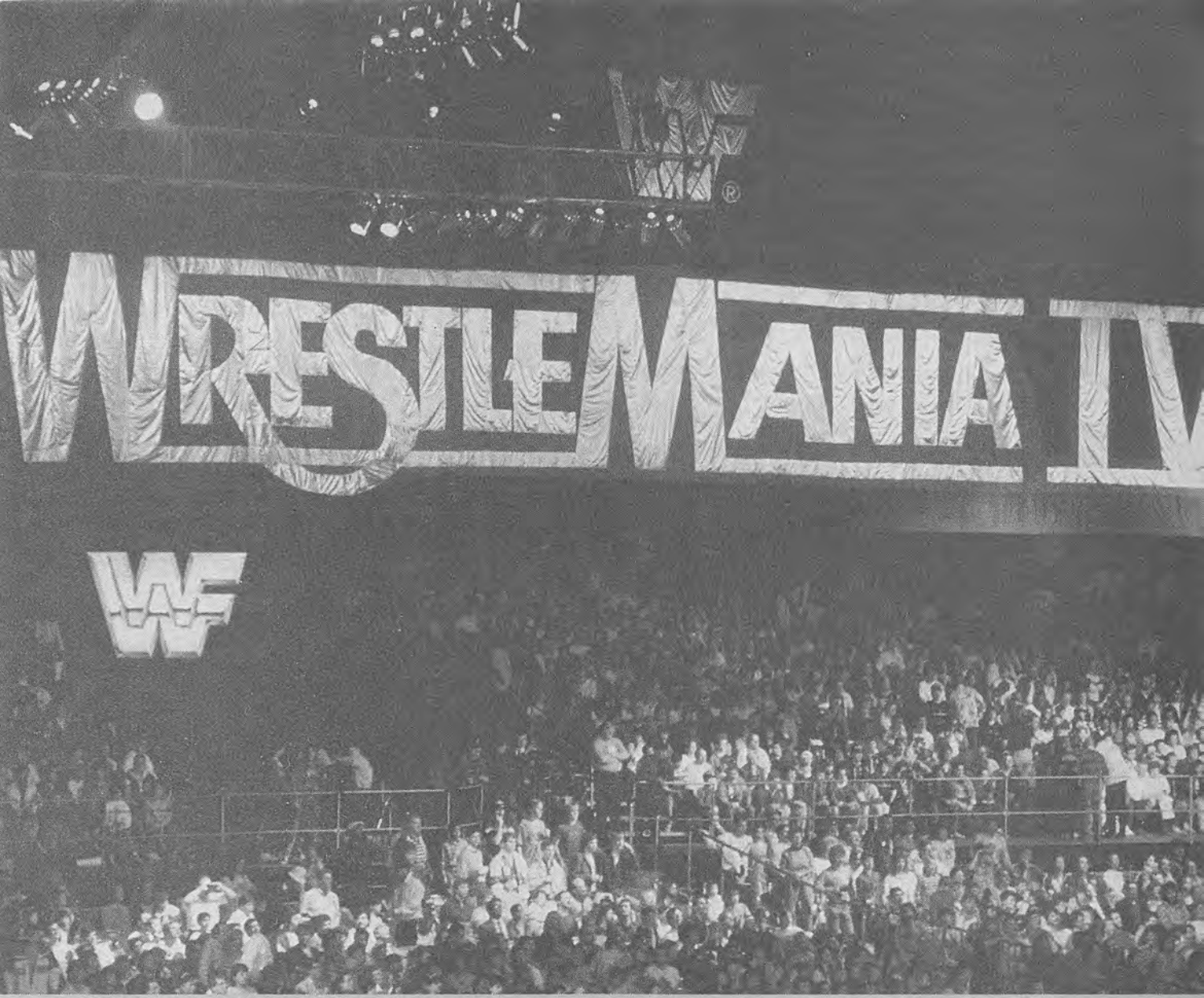
He is the president of the single most powerful organization in professional wrestling. His multi-million dollar empire includes many of the top superstars in the sport, all working for the top salaries available; in fact, no member of the mat fraternity is considered to have "arrived" until he makes good working for this man. His weekly television programming is seen on nearly 280 stations nationwide, and his pay-per-view events on cable television have been major successes. In short, he sits atop the pro wrestling promotional mountain.

He is Vince McMahon, Jr., head of the World Wrestling Federation. To many, he is the single most powerful figure in the business, and his realm of influence extends far beyond his own federation. In recent months, the WWF has been quite active in raiding other associations for top talent, and as a result, the entire sport has remained unsettled. Stars like The Powers of Pain, Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard, Ronnie Garvin, the Ultimate Warrior, The Sheepherders, the Big Bossman, and "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig have all been lured from other alliances by the promise of big money. It almost seems that McMahon can control the entire business at times.

While his years as WWF President have been well-documented, little has ever been brought forward concerning Vince McMahon's early life. Through extensive research and discussions with former acquaintances, WRESTLING EYE has been able to uncover some previously unknown facts.

The son of wrestling and boxing promoter Vince McMahon, Sr., the younger McMahon attended Fishburne Military Academy in Waynesboro, VA, during his formative years. From there, he attended East Carolina University, where he played football and also wrestled. "Vince was a pretty popular kid in school," recalled one ex-classmate. "He was a good athlete, but he always demanded respect from others. He always worked hard to improve himself, and others did kind of look up to him because of it."

McMahon spent considerable time working with his father, learning the various aspects of sports



This is the top grossing event in all of wrestling.

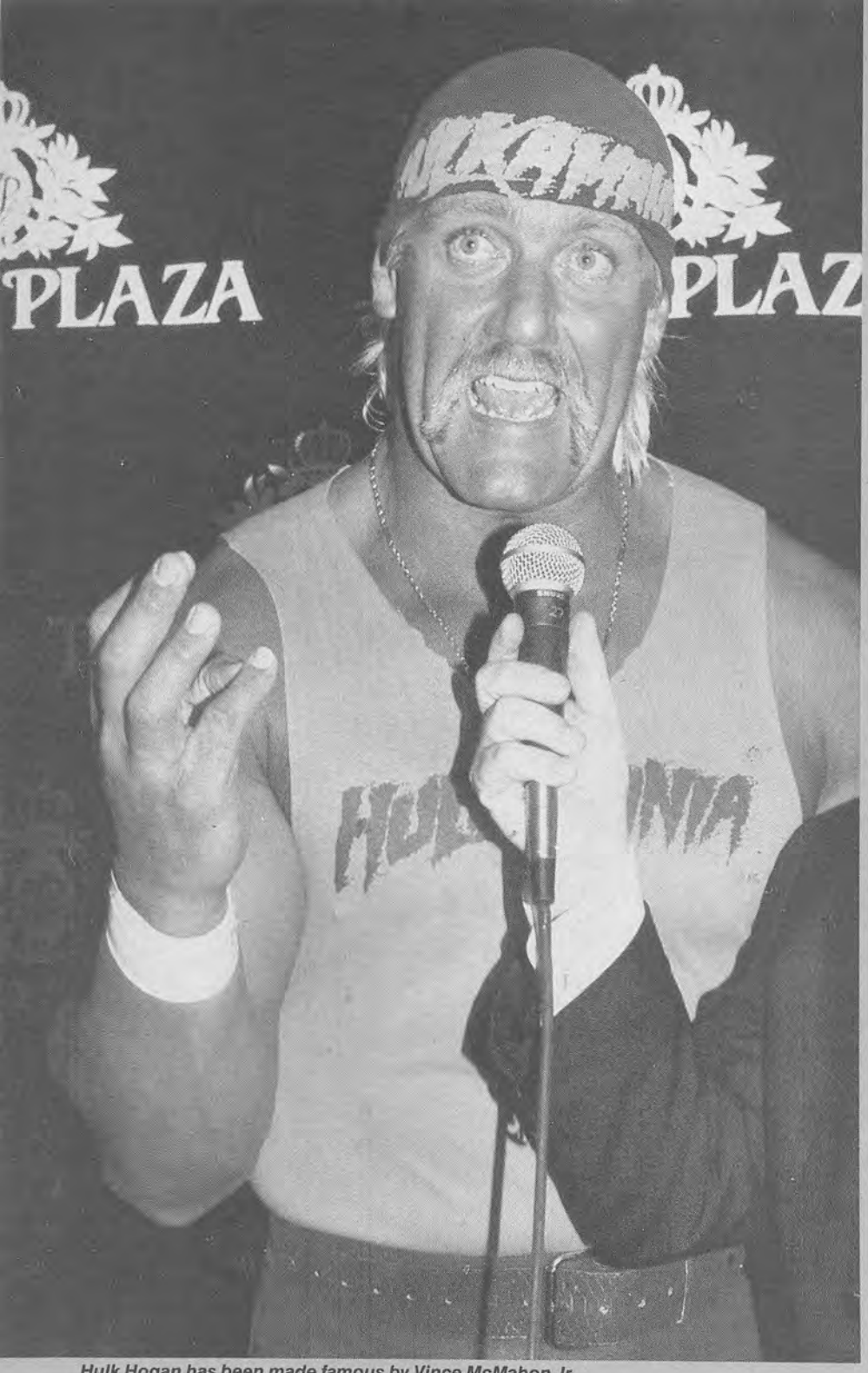
promotion. During the early 80's, he constructed a house on some property in Connecticut, a logical step for a young man looking to the future. Unfortunately, however, McMahon didn't own the land on which the home was built, and as a result of this debacle, he was forced to declare bankruptcy. Later on, McMahon gained ownership of the Cape Cod Coliseum, and began to promote rock concerts. Although it seemed like a good idea at the time, this venture failed miserably, and the elder McMahon was forced to bail his son out of financial trouble. "Let me tell you something about Vince," said a one-time business associate. "He was never afraid to try anything. He's kind of a gambler at heart, and I believe it's made him the success he is today. But he didn't always have the Midas touch. He has failed during his life in many things he's done. But nothing ever discouraged him or made him quit."

Vince, Jr., never made any secret about his desire to try his hand at becoming a pro wrestler, but his father, fearing a serious injury to his son, discouraged him. The intense desire for competition, however, remained within the young man, and it would serve him well a short time later. When he took control of the WWF in 1982, things began to fall in Vince's favor.

McMahon's disregard for all of the old rules of promoting had two consequences: first, it made him a hated man among his fellow promoters, who were used to never violating one another's territory. McMahon promoted when and where he wanted to, without regard to "territories". Secondly, it laid the foundation for the greatest empire the sport has ever seen.

Donald Trump has joined forces with McMahon to help promote the Wrestlemania.

Instead of a profitable regional promotion, the World Wrestling Federation became a fierce giant, forever expanding and swallowing up smaller associations, and mak-



Hulk Hogan has been made famous by Vince McMahon Jr.

ing more money than any other federation before it. While he made more than his share of enemies with his expansionist tactics, McMahon's supporters give him most of the credit for wrestling's current popularity. While not only making a great deal of money, the WWF's promotional and marketing machinery brought the sport to the attention of millions who had never noticed before. By later 1984, McMahon, the WWF, and world champion Hulk Hogan were practically household names. McMahon further expanded his audience with the use of rock music figures such as Cyndi Lauper, who became a part-time "manager" to ladies' champ Wendi Richter.

As 1989 moves along, the WWF is still grinding along, with Vince McMahon still at the helm. The fifth of the highly-successful WrestleMania series has just been completed. The sales of federation-related items continues to generate substantial income. All WWF TV programs remain high in the ratings, including the popular "Saturday Night's Main Event" series and other prime-time telecasts. Superstar talent remains under contract, and things are going very well.

As is usually the case in any success story, however, the detractors continue to hammer away at McMahon's methods. Although basically a jovial and friendly sort, the WWF president has been accused of letting success "go to his head". "There's no question about it. Becoming wealthy and successful has really changed McMahon," said a former WWF official. "He has always had an ego, but in the last few years, he has become almost inapproachable to most people. He insists that he is the absolute authority on all matters, even when he has people who specialize in certain areas. To be perfectly honest, he has become a dictator—the Adolph Hitler of professional wrestling." According to reports from other sources, there are a number of capable employees within the WWF management framework, but their advice is often shunned in favor of lower-echelon people who, while not as capable, gain favor because they, as one ex-booker put it, "Are willing to kiss ...".

Despite the allegations from anti-McMahon sources, the fact remains that Vince McMahon has done well for himself and his sport. In many cases, he has surrounded himself with good people to run the WWF—although he apparently insists on the final say. Several former business and marketing experts have been hired to take care of federation matters, and the McMahon formula, however controversial, has worked, and worked very well.

No matter what anyone from other alliances may claim, the World Wrestling Federation virtually controls the entire destiny of the sport. "Dictator" or not, love him or hate him, any pro wrestling fan must admire the position McMahon has worked himself into. He controls his own destiny, and until the day that someone knocks him from the mountain, Vince McMahon will remain as "King of the Hill" in our favorite sport.

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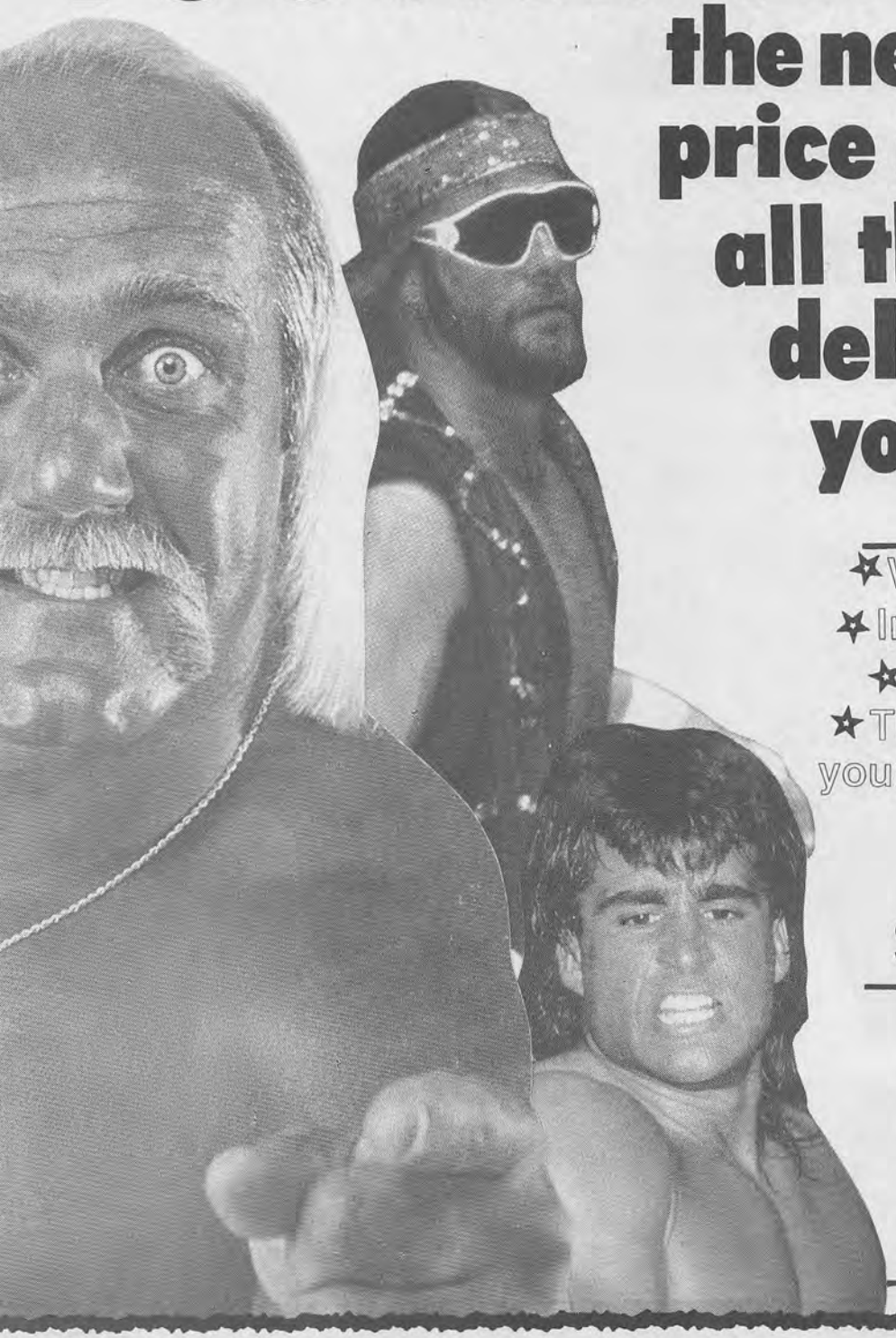

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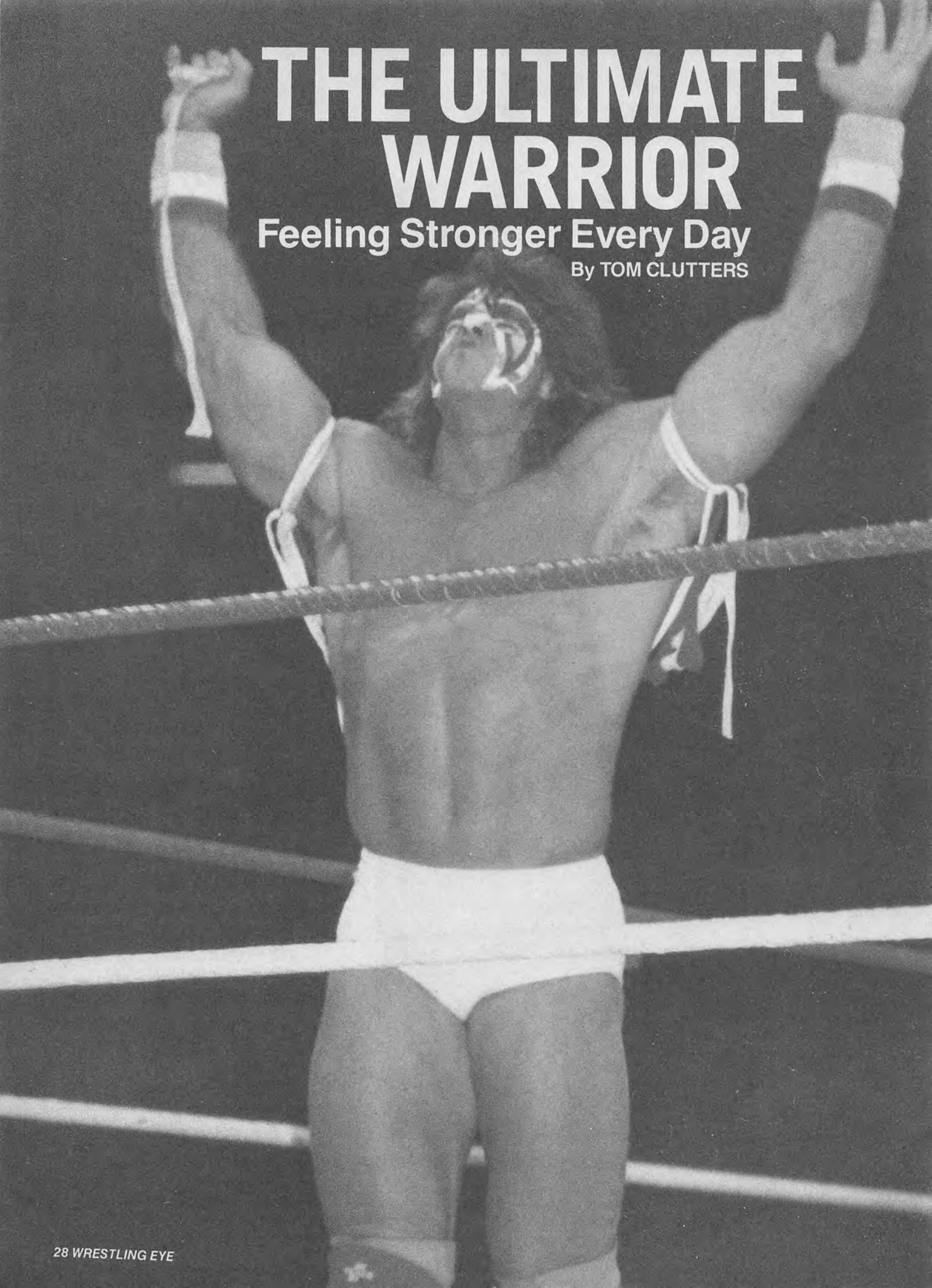
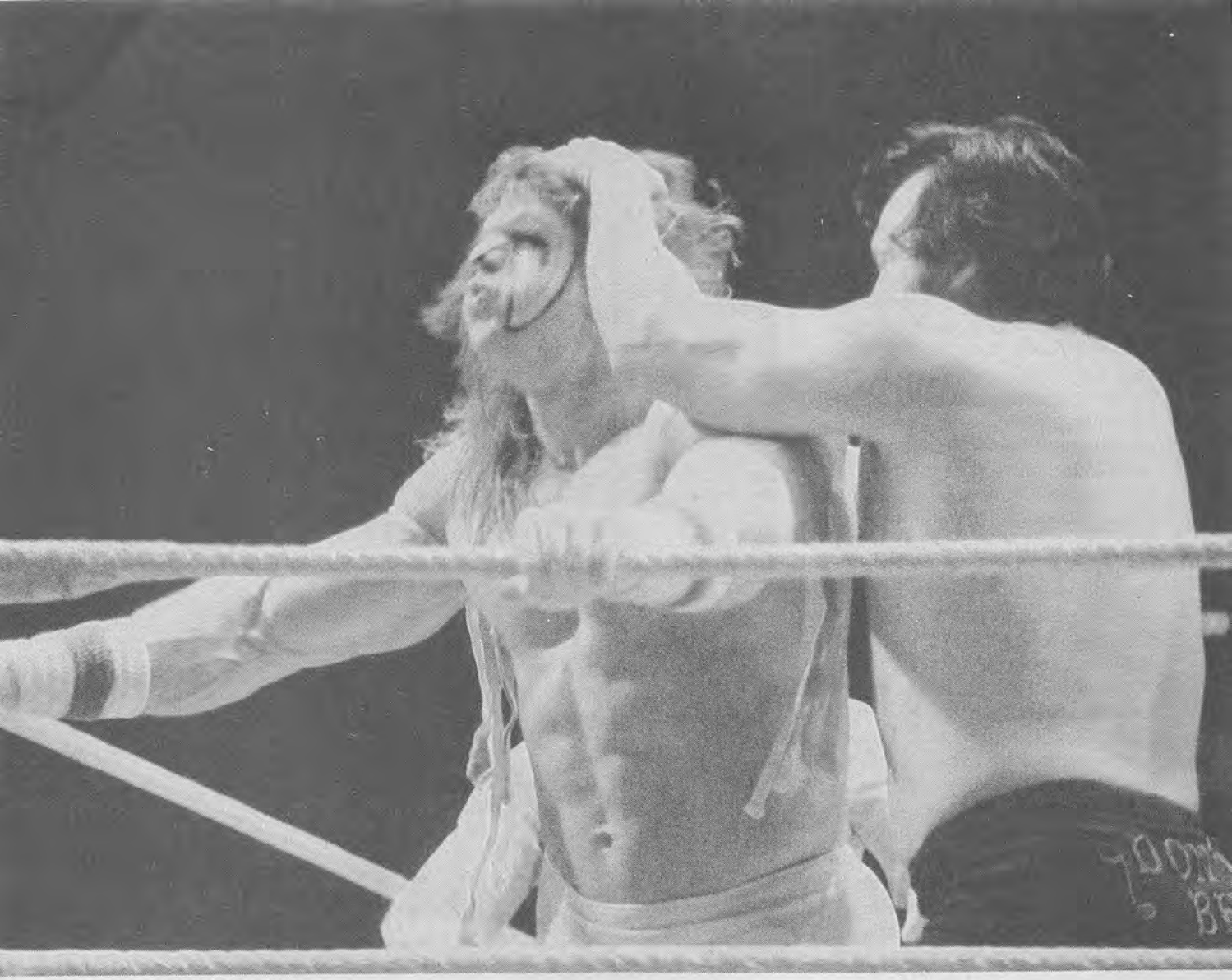


THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Feeling Stronger Every Day

By TOM CLUTTERS



Honky is no match for the Warrior.

If the Ultimate Warrior had nothing else going for him, he would still be the hottest commodity in professional wrestling. This massively-muscled strongman from Queens, NY, has made a truly astounding impact on the World Wrestling Federation. But this young gladiator, who began life as Jim Hellwig, has much more going in his favor.

Although people are forced to sit up and take notice when the Warrior appears, there is a lot more to this man than just muscle and power. When he defeated the Honky Tonk Man in just 31 seconds to win the WWF Intercontinental title on August 29 of last year, it marked the culmination of a well-designed and executed plan.

Like any other youngster who takes to the mat to earn a living, Hellwig was determined to become a champion. His pro career started when he joined Ron Bassman's ill-fated "Power Team, USA" quartet, which incidentally, also included another fledgling strongman named Sting. The PT concept soon evaporated, but Hellwig and Sting decided to continue on their own. They eventually migrated to the UWF, where they became the Blade Runners, Rock and Sting. Despite their virtual domination of the UWF tag team scene, the duo soon went their separate ways, with Rock assuming the name "Dingo Warrior," and moving to the Texas-based World Class area. After a slow start, the Warrior decided to change his image from heel to fan favorite, ridding himself of managers Gary Hart and Percy Pringle in the process. It wasn't long before he got his first taste of championship glory, as he and Lance Von Erich won the World Class tag team belts in 1986. Later, the Warrior captured his first singles belt, defeating Bob Bradley for the WCCW Texas strap in early '87.

By this time, talent scouts from the major federations had decided to keep a close eye on this potential superstar, and in June of 1987, the Warrior signed with the World Wrestling Federation. Some of his friends feared that a move to the WWF might be too quick, but Hellwig was about to prove that his mind was equal to his body. Unlike many others, he didn't demand matches with top-caliber opponents right away. Now known as the "Ultimate" Warrior, Hellwig instead began to wrestle lesser-known foes like Steve Lombardi, Iron Mike Sharpe, and Terry Gibbs. His plan was to start out slowly, and gain badly-needed experience before challenging the cream of the federation's talent roster. His first months in the WWF didn't bring much fame or fortune, but he stuck to his plan, and gained what he considered the knowledge and

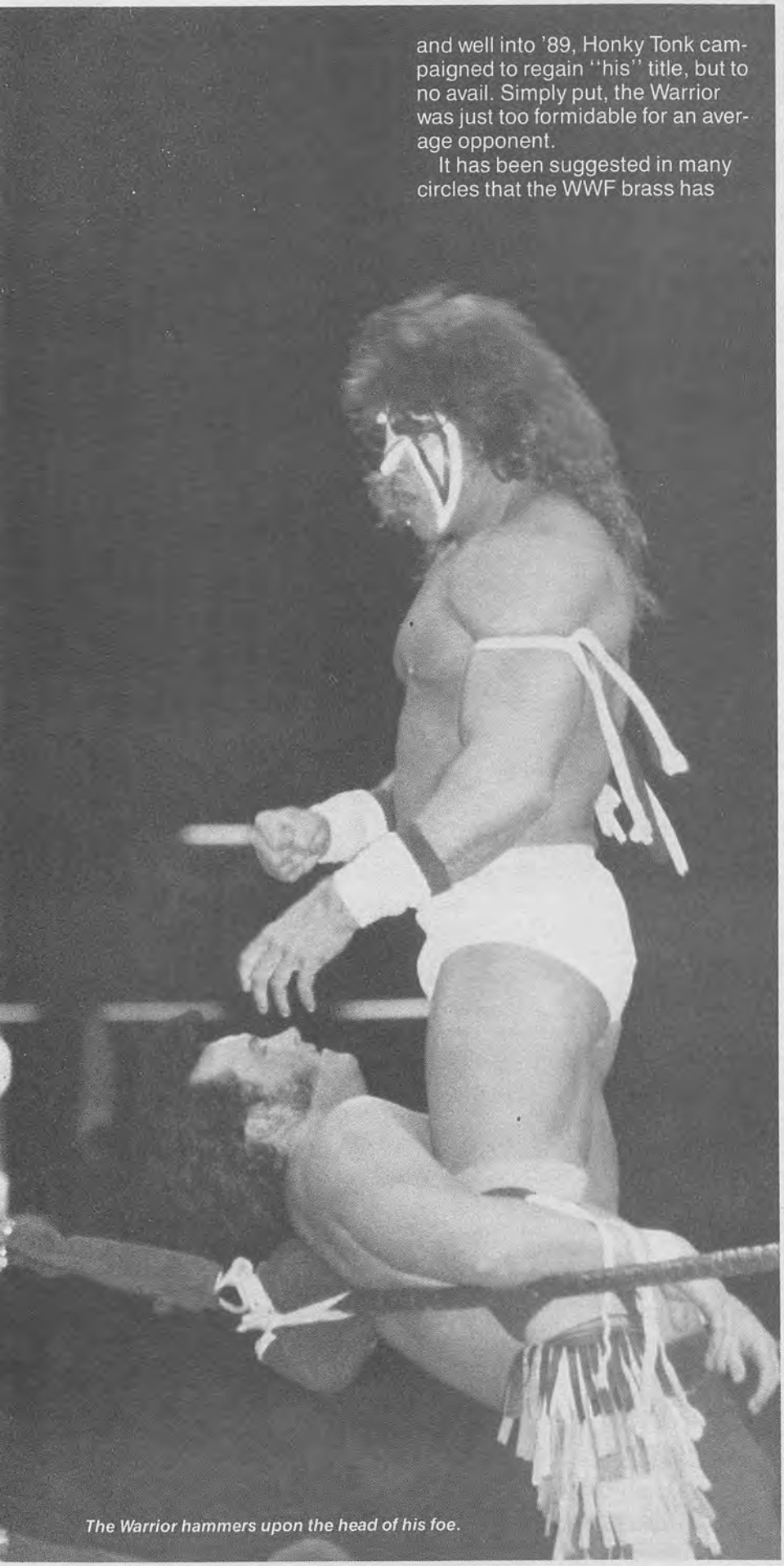
ring time necessary to attain his goal. By mid-1988, the Ultimate Warrior felt he was ready.

The Warrior picked fellow strongman Hercules Hernandez as his first target. Hercules, a WWF veteran, was ring wise, and considered the federation's strongest competitor. The feud simmered for several weeks, but Hernandez was forced to struggle against his new foe. The Warrior's first major win came during WrestleMania IV, but it wasn't exactly a clear-cut decision. Nevertheless, he gained added confidence, and Hercules soon found himself coming out on the short end of nearly every battle. The war ended in late summer, and the Ultimate Warrior came out the clear victor. Although he didn't discuss his next move, many people felt it was time for the Warrior to challenge for a title, and there were only two to choose from. Because of the WWF's reluctance to pit fan favorites against each other, and since Randy "Macho Man" Savage held the federation's world belt, the Honky Tonk man's I-C strap seemed to be the logical choice. However, Honky Tonk was then engaged in a brutal series of matches with Brutus Beefcake, and wasn't defending the belt against many other opponents. At this point, Outlaw Ron Bass came into the picture, and most likely made the most significant contribution to the Warrior's title quest.

Bass and Beefcake had collided on several occasions, with both men absorbing savage beatings. In early August, Bass attacked Brutus on national television, battering "The Barber" severely, and slashing him open with spurs. Beefcake, who had been scheduled to meet Honky Tonk at SummerSlam '88 on August 29, was unable to recover in time, and HT found himself without an opponent. The brashly confident champion declared that he would gladly meet any opponent who wished to step forward that afternoon, he was never prepared for what came next. The Ultimate Warrior dashed to ringside to accept the challenge, and a half minute later, it was all over. Honky Tonk and manager Jimmy Hart never knew what hit them, and the Warrior was the new Intercontinental champion.

During the remainder of 1988,

The Warrior whips Honky across the ring.



The Warrior hammers upon the head of his foe.

and well into '89, Honky Tonk campaigned to regain "his" title, but to no avail. Simply put, the Warrior was just too formidable for an average opponent.

It has been suggested in many circles that the WWF brass has plans for the Warrior to eventually replace Hulk Hogan as the No. 1 man, a task no one could completely fulfill. When this possibility is considered, some interesting facts immediately grab one's attention:

—Much like the Hulkster, the Ultimate Warrior speaks often of his "little Warriors," the young fans which make up a large portion of his following. After all, how much difference can there be between junior Warriors and little Hulksters?

—Their wrestling styles are similar. Each gets by with little wrestling talent, simply by overpowering their opponents. Realistically, the Ultimate Warrior, like Hogan, will never be rated among the premier tacticians in the business.

—Both suffer from the same shortcoming...a lack of stamina. In fact, the Warrior's mad dash from the dressing room to the ring usually leaves him puffing before the opening bell. However, since he usually disposes of his foes in a couple of minutes, this factor seldom comes into play. Any opponent who can survive the initial onslaught stands a chance to win.

—Despite his obvious intelligence, the Warrior has shown no desire to learn additional moves. The overhead press and big splash finishing combination will devastate most opponents, but not all. With his tremendous power, he would be well-served to learn more basic maneuvers.

—Throughout most of Hogan's championship years, there were precious few big men in the WWF. In fact, until Andre the Giant turned against the Hulkster, the list of 300-pounders was limited to men like King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd. These days, monsters like the Big Bossman, Akeem, and the Powers of Pain fill out the list of possible opponents. All are big men, and all can wrestle.

As he moves into the prime years of his career, the Ultimate Warrior has the chance to become the next true superstar in the World Wrestling Federation. This man is no fool. He's not a typical case of brawn over brains, and most of his supporters feel that he will make the right moves. If he does, then he could well take his place among the legends of professional wrestling.

THE BIG APPLE'S WRESTLING SCHOOLS

New York's Grip and Groan Academies

By BOBBY SANDERS

Nestled throughout the country in small gymnasiums are places where you can learn the craft, the skill, and the sport of professional wrestling. Undeniably the capital for such places is, without a doubt, the "Big Apple," New York City. As one famous wrestling announcer has stated, "...New York is the MECCA of professional wrestling." In this article geared to all aspiring pro wrestlers, WRESTLING EYE will give you an insiders look at the schools and facilities of the New York Metropolitan area.

Dr. David Shultz's Wrestling School

Fittingly dubbed the 'Baddest Man In The World Today' by wrestling critics, fans and writers alike, Dr. 'D' may not seem to be the orthodox, 'run of the mill,' ordinary instructor that teaches anyone off the street, because he's not! In the New England city of Orange, Ct., located just outside of New Haven is the most modern wrestling facility in the country, "Passariello's Quest" can be found. Noted for years as being a stomping ground for bodybuilders, weightlifters and now wrestlers, this is where Dr. 'D' feels most at home. The fifteen year veteran of the mat wars is no 'cream puff' to say the least. "What ya' have to do to these pampered, pimply faced momma's boys is beat them to death. Just because these boys have the money don't mean I'm going to train them. After pounding them for a while, to give them an understanding of what it is to become a pro wrestler, then and only then will I teach them the sport." Obviously Dr. 'D' has a philosophy to separate the men, from the boys and wimps. "All of my students are rough and tough, or they wouldn't be here. All of my boys are good wrestlers and know how to protect themselves against anyone, and I mean anyone that steps into the ring with them," says Dr. 'D' quite confidently.

As you could imagine, many young athletes run from Dr. D's school in fear. "If you can't take my lessons and what I teach you, then you don't belong in the business and you're guaranteed to never make it."

Some wrestlers that have graduated from Doc's school of hard knocks are—The Powertwins, Larry and David; Bubba Shultz, a cousin of David's; and a wrestling manager, 'Mr. Obnoxious' Hubie Marx.

For further information ask for Dr. 'D' at Passariello's Quest: (203) 795-1001.

Dr. 'D' David Shultz, instructor at the Quest.

Johnny Rodz's Unpredictable School Of Pro Wrestling

This native of Brooklyn, N.Y. is no stranger to the mat game. With experience of over twenty years in wrestling and a great reputation and admiration from his fellow wrestlers, Johnny Rodz is a great diplomat to the sport. The home of Johnny Rodz's 'dungeon' and training center is the famous Gleason's Gym of New York City. World reknowned for training some of the greatest professional and amateur pro boxers in the world today, Gleason's is also putting out its share of wrestlers. "Training takes place in the school twice a week. I supervise every class and teach them all the little tricks, all the little ins and outs that would take them years to learn on their own. Sometimes, some tough kids come off the street and say how tough they are. I ask them into the ring and in less than a minute they're screaming in pain. I teach my boys all that I have learned in this business during the past two decades," says the 'Unpredictable One.' Gleason's Gym holds actual matches twice a month at the facility, where all of the students get to show their stuff and obtain experience. "All of my men, The Twin Towers, Mondo Kleen, 'Heartthrob' Tom Norton and Bialo the Giant are all or have been students of mine. One advantage that I feel I have is I get my wrestlers connected with various promoters to sign matches, but I will only do that when I feel a particular individual is ready, by my standards," stated Johnny. Anyone interested in Johnny's School may contact him Mondays and Tuesdays at 718-797-9570. Johnny welcomes all resumes and inquiries.

Chief Bobby Bold Eagle's Wrestling Academy

Here's yet another one of the Big Apple's finest wrestling institutions. Just like "The Unpredictable Wrestling School," Bobby's instruction is also held at Gleason's gym every Wednesday and Saturday.

When the name Bobby Bold Eagle comes to mind, most people don't even know him. But his list of accomplishments rival some of the top pros in the sport today. At 5'10" and 210 lbs., Bobby may be small but he's one of the greatest technical wrestlers of all time. Spending most of his twenty five year career in Europe's and the United Kingdon's finest promotions, Bobby is a qualified world class competitor. Most people do not recall, but Bold Eagle held the W.W.F. World's Junior Heavyweight Title in 1981 by defeating Tiger Mask in Japan. "I held the belt for about three weeks. Then Tiger Mask won it back on the final night of my overseas tour," stated Bold Eagle. Bobby has truly wrestled some of the greatest technical grapplers ever to grace the squared circle. Such names that Bobby have faced in his illustrious career reads like a who's who in the business—Dory Funk, Jr., Danny McShane, Mark 'Rollerball' Rocco, Tiger Mask, Animal Hamaguchi, Les Thornton, Mighty Inoui, 'Dynamite' Jack Evans, 'Fantastic' Bobby Fulton and Cyanide Cyd Cooper to name a few. "Unlike other instructors, with

Johnny Rodz, The Unpredictable One teaches in Brooklyn.

my experience, I can teach my wrestlers many different moves and styles. Such as European style like that of a Les Thornton, Japanese style like that of a Tiger Mask or American style like that of today's U.S. wrestlers. All of these styles are different in certain ways, but the foundation for them is to learn the American style first,'' says Bobby. Bobby, noted to be a 'high flyer' was trained by undoubtedly the greatest flyer of all time, Antonino Rocca. ''I still remember the training sessions with Rocca, in the old gyms of Manhattan. He worked us boys as if he was trying to kill us. He taught us moves and maneuvers that were unheard of back in 50's. I will have to say though, I couldn't have had a better trainer than Rocca,'' says Bold Eagle.

Some of the wrestlers that Bold Eagle has trained have gone on to become some of the best tacticians and technicians in the business—The Cheetah Kid, Kid McCoy, light Heavyweight Champion Of England, and the original Tiger Mask have all learned and trained with Bobby. To contact the school feel free to write to Bobby Bold Eagle, 165 E. 179 St., Apt. 3L, Bronx, N.Y. 10453 or call (718) 273-8455.

Chief Bobby Bold Eagle is internationally reknowned.

Mark Tendler's School Of Pro Wrestling

This one, situated in Happauge, Long Island is a terrific school for those who simply love the sport. The facility located about fifty miles from Manhattan is in the heart of suburban Long Island. The trainer, Mark Tendler, a former wrestler, now promoter is the chief instructor of the school. ''We've trained a few fine wrestlers in this small gym,'' says Mark as he looks about the moderately sized training center. ''I've had some big boys walk through those doors, walk out never to be seen again. Some people think that wrestling is all fun and games but here we show them what it's REALLY all about,'' elaborated Mark. Of the four instructors profiled, Tendler is a qualified international promoter. ''I've promoted shows in Columbia, Italy, Ecuador, Yugoslavia, and of course all about the United States,'' says Tendler. ''We've trained some good wrestlers at our school like—Cactus Jack Manson current World Class Light Heavyweight Champion, Mike Kaluha, and now, professional football player from the Toronto Argonauts, Brian Donahue.''

This school is one not to overlook. For further information call (516) 336-FITE. Mark welcomes all inquiries.

Don[t rush into anything. If you are sincerely interested in any of these schools call them, check their prices and facilities and pick which is better suited for you.

Mark Tendler wears down a student, Brian Donahue, pro football player, looks on.

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GOLDEN GLOBES
In this fantastic tape our first match features a sweet-faced blonde newcomer named Crystal, in a leopard blue bikini, against red bikinied and athletic Stevie. In a matter of minutes both girls are left only in their brief bottoms as they viciously wrestle from post to post and rope to rope. One beauty is laid out flat as a crushing finish ends her dreams of victory. 58 mins. GGC170 $69.95

BELTED BREASTS
By popular demand our battling girls go to the ring to another display of bare boxing brutality, a form of combat that is appealing to more and more of our customers. In the first bout beautiful Belinda in brief blue bikini panties slugs it out with lithe dark haired Jill, attired in red and white bottoms only. Brutal punches are landed to all the most sensitive areas of each girl's bodies.
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Two cum-ly coeds bate all in a dormmestic argument. Summoned before the house mother and told to hold it down, they decide to hold her down instead. The free for all that follows will make you want to hold on to something, too! Plus some "Quick Chick Flick Flops" and "Floor Play", a head bashing, teeth gnashing body smashing, a bare-assed exercise in humiliation. Approx. 60 mins. PV5 $69.95

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One of our own London gals takes on the might and menace of the U.S.A. The masked, mysterious, mean and moody Black Widow gives no quarter for the members of her own sex. Although we all speak the same language on both sides of the pond this Black Widow does not heed the public warnings of the referee. EV4 $40.00

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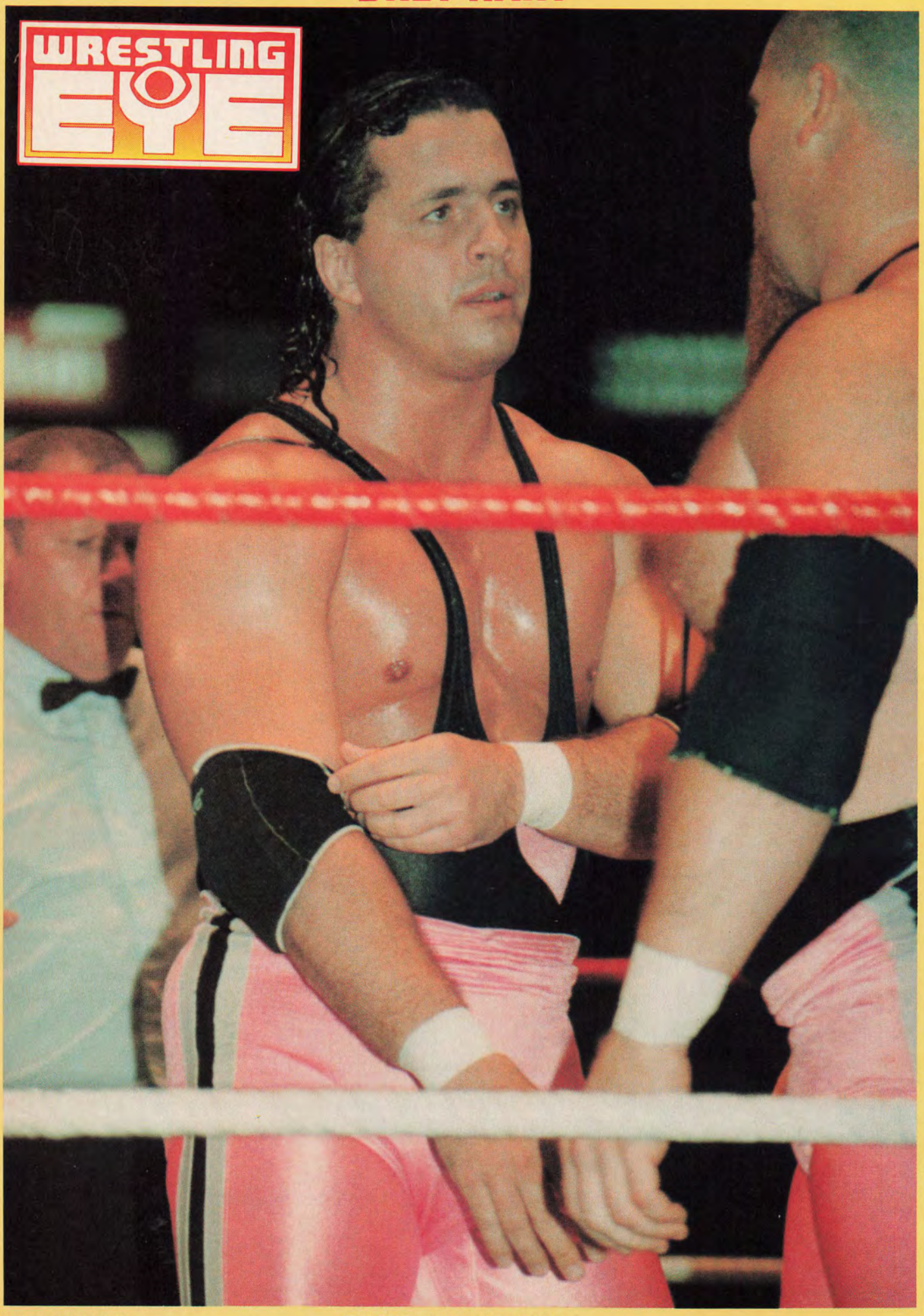


PHOTO BY DESPIRITO

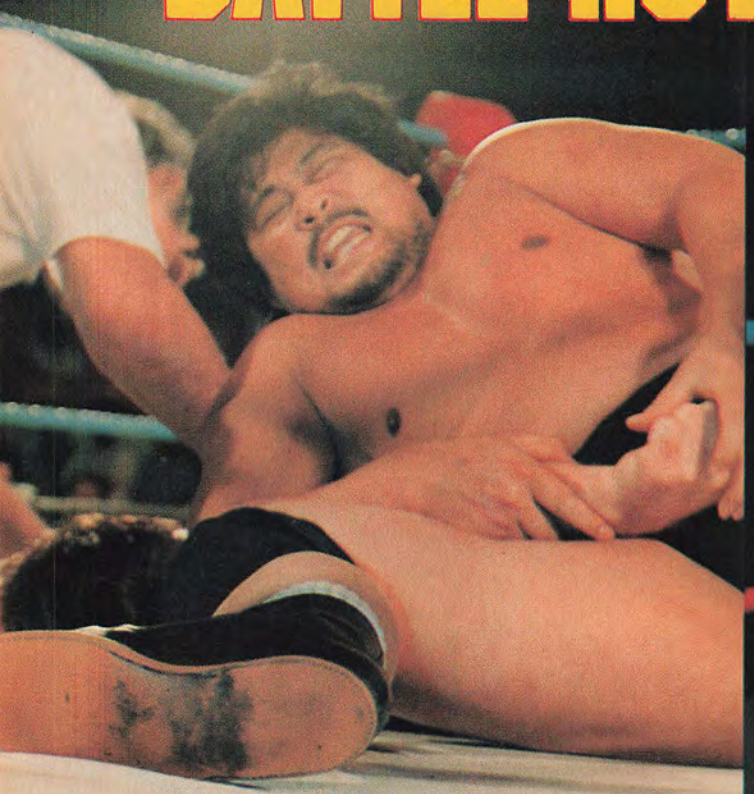
JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER

THE BRITISH BULLDOGS

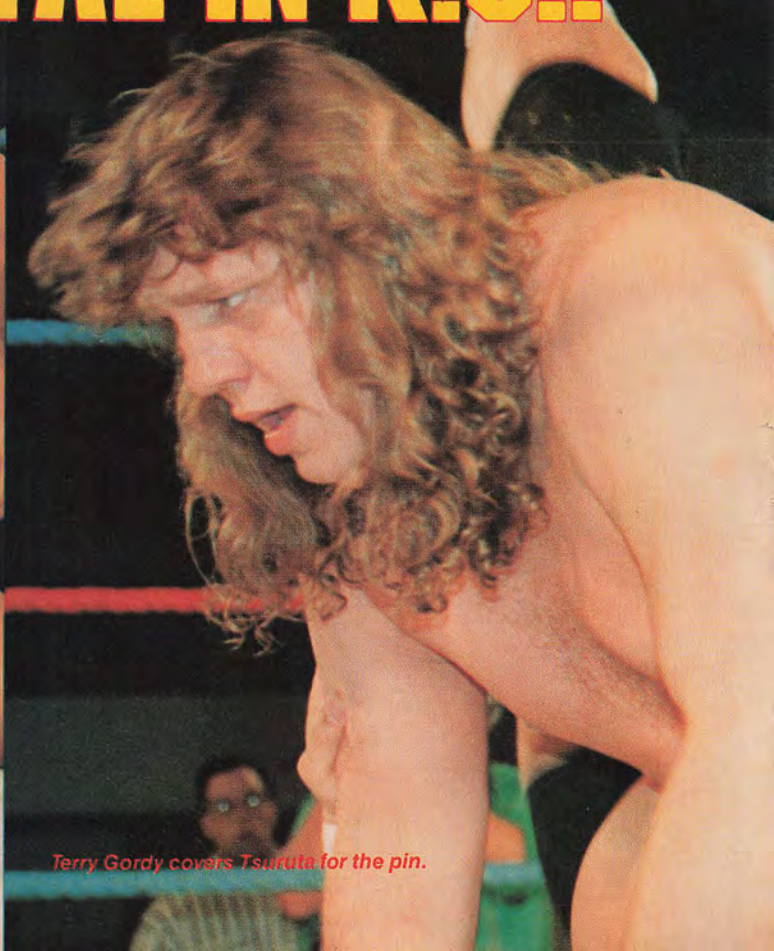
Both former A.W.A. World Champions. Hansen and Tsuruta battle it out!

Tsuruta works on the arm of Stan 'the Lariat' Hansen.

BATTLE ROYAL IN K.C.!



Yoshiaki Yatsu is one of the finest scientific competitors in the world.



Terry Gordy covers Tsuruta for the pin.

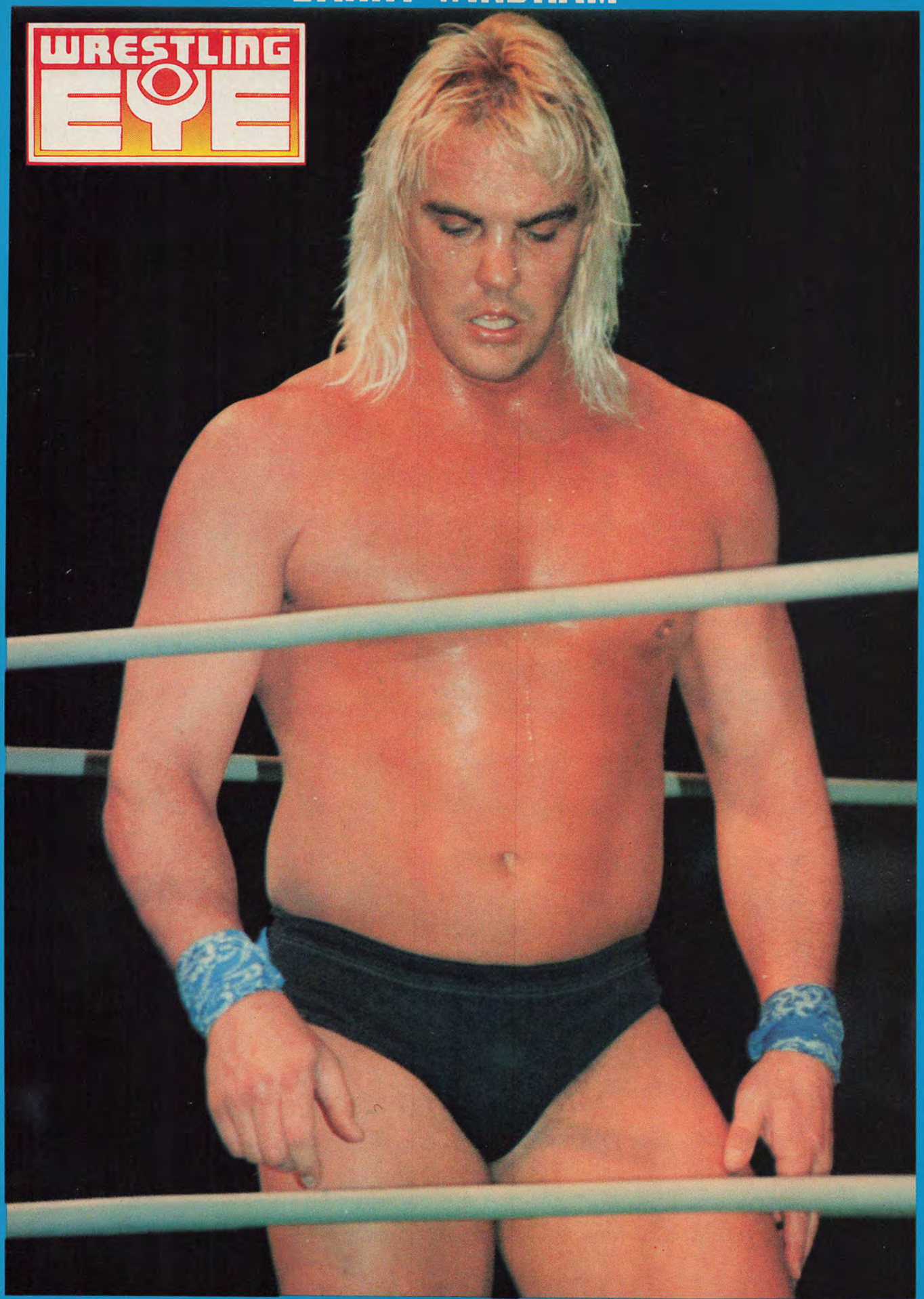
Gordy applies an abdominal stretch on Yatsu.

Meanwhile, Hansen and Tsuruta battle outside the ring.

Terry Gordy & Stan Hansen vs. Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu

The new champs in a stunning upset. Yoshiaki Yatsu and Jumbo Tsuruta!

BARRY WINDHAM



WRESTLING WITH THE PAST AND PRESENT AND-FUTURE

By DON LAIBLE

Whomever first stated those immortal words "Time Marches On" when adapting it to professional wrestling, couldn't have picked a more fitting phrase. Times have changed dramatically, during the sport's past thirty years. In the mid-1950's, wrestling was plain and simple. Sure, there were the few who were extremely flamboyant, the most famous being Gorgeous George Wagner, but the majority of the competitors, although they all added some degree of color to their outings, were athletically inclined. Most had collegiate sports backgrounds. Lou Thesz, the world heavyweight champion, is still recognized as the greatest wrestler of all-time. From that era of respectability, the top dozen pros in North America have fallen to what many feel are nothing more than unemployed comics doing a poor imitation of a wrestler. World Wrestling Federation Champ Hulk Hogan has proven to be a hit at the box-office, but in claiming to be a wrestler, anyone could count on one hand the amount of actual wrestling holds he employs during a match and still have two fingers left over. The thinking behind promoting a wrestling program these days has shaped the product into a monster that many people have yet to put a label on that they can live with.

'Nature Boy' Buddy Rogers, really popularized the sport in the fifties.

Demographics plays a bigger, more important role in the sport today. Audience and marketing appeal has been redirected from older fans who would often attend boxing matches or the roller derby to the current trend of children. They go to the matches to see up close the people whose toy dolls and headbands they purchased.

Another significant and obvious change over the years in the wrestling world have been ticket prices. Granted, they had to escalate due to the rest of the economy's natural

progression over the years, but why so high? Salaries to the wrestlers have increased and so have expenses in putting on the programs. However, a great many people stay home who would like to go to the arenas but can't because the prices are out of their league. Up until 1984, promoters directed their product to the every day laborer and his family. The thinking was that the "bread winner" could take the entire family out for an evening of fun and not go broke doing so.

Today, a family of four can most definitely expect to shell out fifty dollars as a minimum, and that's a no frills package consisting of tickets, a soft drink and a program. Money seems to have taken over as the chief component of a promoter's actions. No longer is there as much pride in the sport; there are a few organizations that refuse to acknowledge wrestling as a sport anymore, a key ingredient in their sales pitch.

From 1960 to 1980, there were nearly two dozen financially solid, talent loaded promotional bodies functioning in America. A wrestler had many opportunities as to which region they wished to earn a living in. It was typical for a top drawing card such as Bobo Brazil to see mat action in Detroit, Cleveland and Toledo in a given week, appearing under three separate promotional banners. Now there are only two major leagues of wrestling, the WWF and the National Wrestling Alliance. Bargaining power has dropped significantly for the men and women who risk injury each time they step into a ring. Take it or leave it, that's the consensus by the wrestling power brokers today. Sure, "household names" Brutus Beefcake or Tito Santana can see mat action in several time zones a week, but they have been doing so, over and over again, for nearly eight years with the same organization.

Talent doesn't shuffle around like it used to. Some metropolitan arenas that were spoiled, as in the case of New York's Madison Square Garden, with continuous sell-outs for years, now house crowds that fill only half their rows of chairs. Talent is stale, the same old faces can do only so much to catch the fancy of the fans before they become just another wrestling personality lost in a crowd.

The Funk Bros., Dory and Terry, are a good example of wrestlers who have adapted to the 80's.

Midget's Sky Low Low and Fuzzy Cupid and women stars Cora Combs and Mildred Burke are among a growing legion of minorities that cashed in on fame and fortune with wrestling as their vehicle. Midgets and women were used regularly and in some instances they comprised a program's main event, not like the role they find themselves in today. Now, they are delegated to the "special, added attraction" category, when and if a booking is even in the offering.

Tiger Jackson, Little Louie and The Irish Leprechaun, all under 4'3" and no more than 110 lbs. soaking wet, are quite capable and

The style of the old days...just forgotten memories.

perform just as many exciting body slams and "monkey flips" as their larger counterparts. Suddenly, a few influential and so-called innovative promoting czars have deemed anyone under 6'5" 260 lbs. not as important as the "big boys". Wrestling is proof that bigger doesn't necessarily mean better. "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert, a 5'11" 220 lb. native of Lexington, Tennessee, for the past ten years has been one of the most interesting and intelligent wrestlers on the circuits. His success hasn't depended on taking steroids or other chemicals used by many of the headliners today to make them appear as a Superman. Gilbert has successfully combined his athletic ability and his own individual personality to spring board him to title matches with the NWA's World Champion Ric Flair. Gilbert has become one of the best in his profession the old fashioned way.

Before cable television boomed wrestling beyond all expert's expectations, the regional promotion concept was alive and well. Nick Gulas ran shows throughout the South with Nashville and Memphis being his home base. Tommy Rich, Jackie Fargo, Tommy Gilbert and Jerry Lawler are a few of the national stars that launched their careers in the South. Fred Ward operated in Macon, Georgia, and Paul Jones in Atlanta, wrestling for them were the Andersons: Ole and Gene, Rip Hawk and Swede Hanson, plus Bob Armstrong and Mr. Wrestling: Tim Woods. Vince McMahon, Sr., in the Northeast showcased Bruno Sammartino, "Killer" Kowalski, Gorilla Monsoon and The Graham Brothers. Verne Gagne in Minnesota and Jules Strongbow in Los Angeles also developed and retained local star attractions. Back then, the NWA was truly a national body of promoters working collectively towards a common goal, to promote professional wrestling as the King of Sports, America's favorite fast action sport. Now, the NWA, as with the WWF McMahons, is owned by one man, Ted Turner. At one time Lou Thesz, Pat O'Connor, Gene Kiniski, Dory, Jr. and Terry Funk, all represented the most prestigious governing wrestling body in the world headed by Sam Muchnik.

Less and less second generation wrestlers are sticking it out in the sport that made their fathers or mothers famous. Kelly and Nick Kiniski have dropped out of the ranks of the sport their dad Gene once ruled. David Sammartino threw in the towel and has no desire to return to the "squared circle" in which his father Bruno is legendary. The Ortons, Gilberts, Sharpes, Gallaghers and Bockwinkels all, through the decades, still lend their expertise and ring repertoire with the utmost of class and dignity. They are all wrestlers, first and foremost. They will always be thought of as more than TV creations like many of the current wrestling crop. The major differences between the big stars of today as compared to the success experienced by greats of the past such as Fred Blassie, Ed Carpentier and Al Costello was that them at men of years gone by knew when to put a cap on the amount of showmanship they incorporated in their outings. Today, more than half of the wrestlers are all show and haven't a clue as to what wrestling is all about. They know how to defend themselves properly, but that's the extent of their ring education.

The analogy of wrestling past to the present state of the sport can be argued over for great lengths of time with no one right or wrong answer. Everyone that lends their opinion is entitled to have their voice heard. The one question needed to be addressed is where is pro wrestling heading for in the future? Lessons need to be learned by past track records. Right now, wrestling is at its crossroads. The path it takes is anyone's guess. Hopefully the ride will be smooth without any serious derailments.

Count Billy Varga hams it up with Jack Benny before a taping of the infamous Jack Benny Show.

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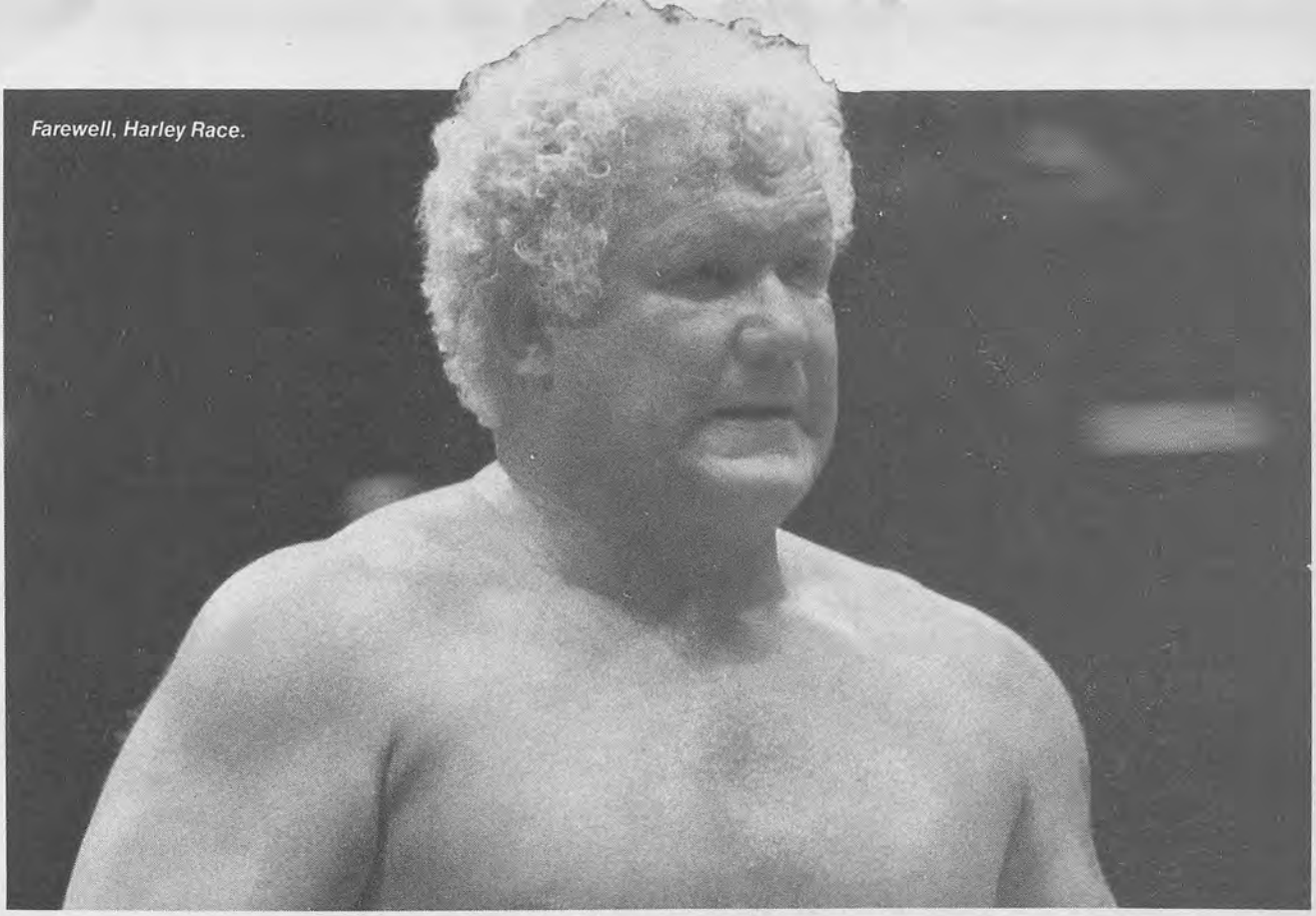
PHANTOM of the ring

Here's this month's news...**Harley Race** has apparently retired from the sport. **Harley's** retirement took effect after the Royal Rumble show in which he wrestled **King Haku. Harley** was on hand Feb 2nd in Kansas City to witness the All-Japan wrestling show, promoted by **Shohei Baba**...Some of the matches on the show were—**Mike George** defeated **Steve Ray, Genichiro Tenryu** defeated **Bill Irwin, Bobby Jaggers** defeated **Ric McCord, Tiger Mask** defeated **Tommy Sharpe, The British Bulldogs** tested the **Rock 'n' Roll Express** to 30 minute draw in one of the greatest tag team confrontations of all time (full color coverage next month!), **Jumbo Tsuruta** and **Yoshiaki Yatsu** defeated **Stan Hansen** and **Terry Gordy** to win the International and the P.W.F. tag team titles, **Dory & Terry Funk** defeated **Doug Somers** and **Gary Young**, and a couple other matches with the W.W.A. locals which included impressive rookie **T.C. Carter**...On a humorous note believe it or not, a production company in Hollywood is planning a movie on the life of the 'Three Stooges' and they're recruiting **Bobby 'The Brain' Heenan** for the role of Curly...Independent promoter **Mark Tendler** of Wrestling Stars International is embarking on a tour of Colombia...Fans in Minneapolis, don't miss Rasslin' Talk on WWTC (1280 AM) with a phone in show hosted by A.W.A. personality **Dale Gagner** and manager, **Diamond Dallas Page**...**James J. Dillon** is now with Titan Sports (W.W.F.) in an office position...Rumor has it that N.W.A. star **Barry Windham** may be on his way as well...**Barry's** dad, **Blackjack Mulligan** was recently hired by N.W.A. booker **George Scott** as an agent...**Ric Flair** and **The Road Warriors** have just returned from Japan where they wrestled for **Baba's** promotion...**Downtown Bruno** lost a hair match in which he teamed with the **Beauty and The Beast** and faced the combo of **Exotic Adrian Street, Bill Dundee** and **Miss Linda. Linda** pinned **Bruno**...speaking of **Adrian,** if you haven't picked up his albums, they're a must! One cut from the albums is "Grid Iron Boys" a parody on football players,—and will be featured on a Dr. Demento album, **Adrian** also has a T.V. talk show that can be seen in the Pensacola, Florida area and in many foreign countries including France, Scotland and Malaysia...**Roddy Piper** is gradually making a return to the ring as he has been heroically making run-ins on Pacific Coast Wrestling Federation T.V. shows for Don Owens Promotions from Oregon...One of the best matches of the year has to be the **Anderson & Blanchard** vs. **The Rockers.** Definitely the best match in the W.W.F. in the past ten years!...Associate Editor of Wrestling Eye—**Rich Mancuso** hosts a radio talk show on (660 AM) WFAN, in New York from 3am to 4am Saturday night/Sunday morning...Japanese great **Antonio Inoki** is joining forces with super celeb **Sylvester Stallone** to possibly promote in the U.S. Sounds great to me!...**Cactus Jack Manson** aka **Foley,** is admitting openly his admiration for this blood thirsty mad man. "Myself and **Charlie** often write to each other about things. He doesn't like **Eric Embry** or the **Von Erichs** either!", stated Jack...**Dory Dixon** has retired from the business at the age of 55...Look out wrestling world one of the biggest feuds in wrestling is about to happen. **Ricky Morton** vs **Robert Gibson!** The Phantom's best bet!...The **Honkytonk Man,** former I-C champ may be seen soon in the N.W.A. It appears that **Honky** is unhappy in his current position and with his contract running out soon, you'll probably see him leave. You heard it here first!...One great match in Japan recently was **Bob Backlund,** former W.W.F. champ vs. **Nobuhio Takada.** A great scientific "wrestling" match...**Dutch Mantell** won the A.W.A. World Title from **Jerry Lawler** on Jan 10th, but because the match was not sanctioned the belt was given back to **Lawler...Ricky Steamboat** looks great in the N.W.A. If he doesn't win the World's Title from **Flair** by the time this magazine comes out, then it will probably be any day...**Tom Pritchard** may be joining the ranks of the N.W.A. soon. Rumor has it possibly as a member of **Paul E. Dangerously's Original Midnight Express...Madusa Miceli** has just returned from a tour of



Farewell, Harley Race.

Madusa is returning for another shot at the title in July. Currently **Madusa** has the lead in a movie entitled "American Angels" which is being produced by Paramount Pictures. Also **Madusa** has a line of merchandise on the market, which includes such items as **Madusa** cologne, **Madusa** T-shirts, posters, etc. Cee-Dee Promotions P.O. Box 3626 Union NJ 07083. Look out world here comes **Madusa**...New York fans don't miss wrestling on Ch.44 where you can see all your favorites including **Johnny Rodz** the N.C.W. champ and the not so favorite **"Mr. Obnoxious" Hubie Marx**...Lastly, look out for **Luscious Johnny V** in comedy clubs across the country. Johnny has not quit wrestling but is also now doing stand-up comedy. More on this next month...For those of you who might be wondering where the **British Bulldogs** are, yes the rumors are true. They are no longer seeing mat action with the WWF. They are now seeing mat action in Canada in the Stampede area and will be wrestling for the AWA...**Elizabeth** will soon have her own perfume on the market. It will be called Miss Elizabeth and should be in the stores shortly...Until next month, keep it within the ring barricades!!!!!

Japan in which she won the IWA World's Women's Title from **Chigusa Nagayo** on Jan 4th at Korauken Hall in Tokyo. **Madusa** lost the title the next day to **Chigusa** at the same building.

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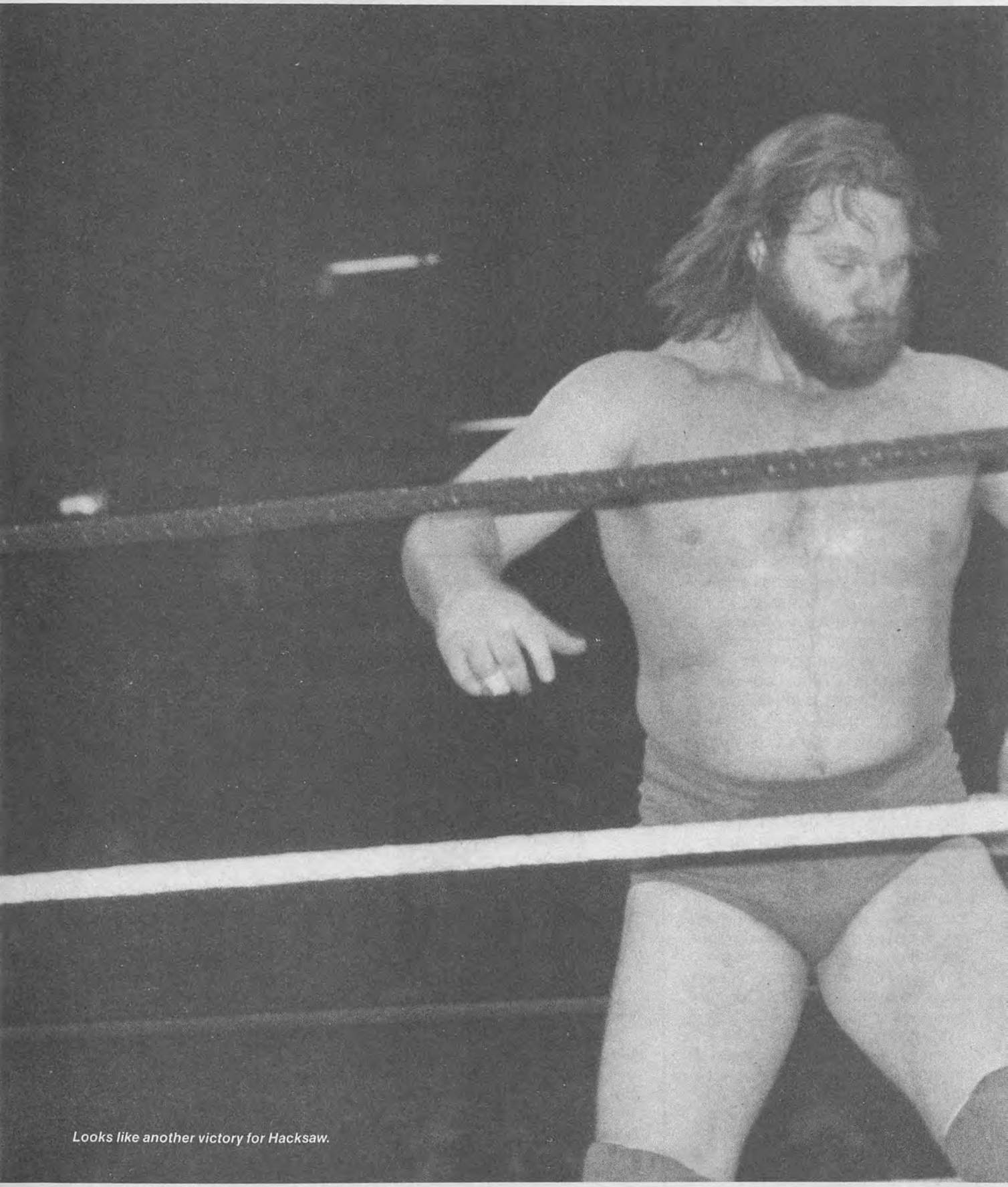


Looks like another victory for Hacksaw.

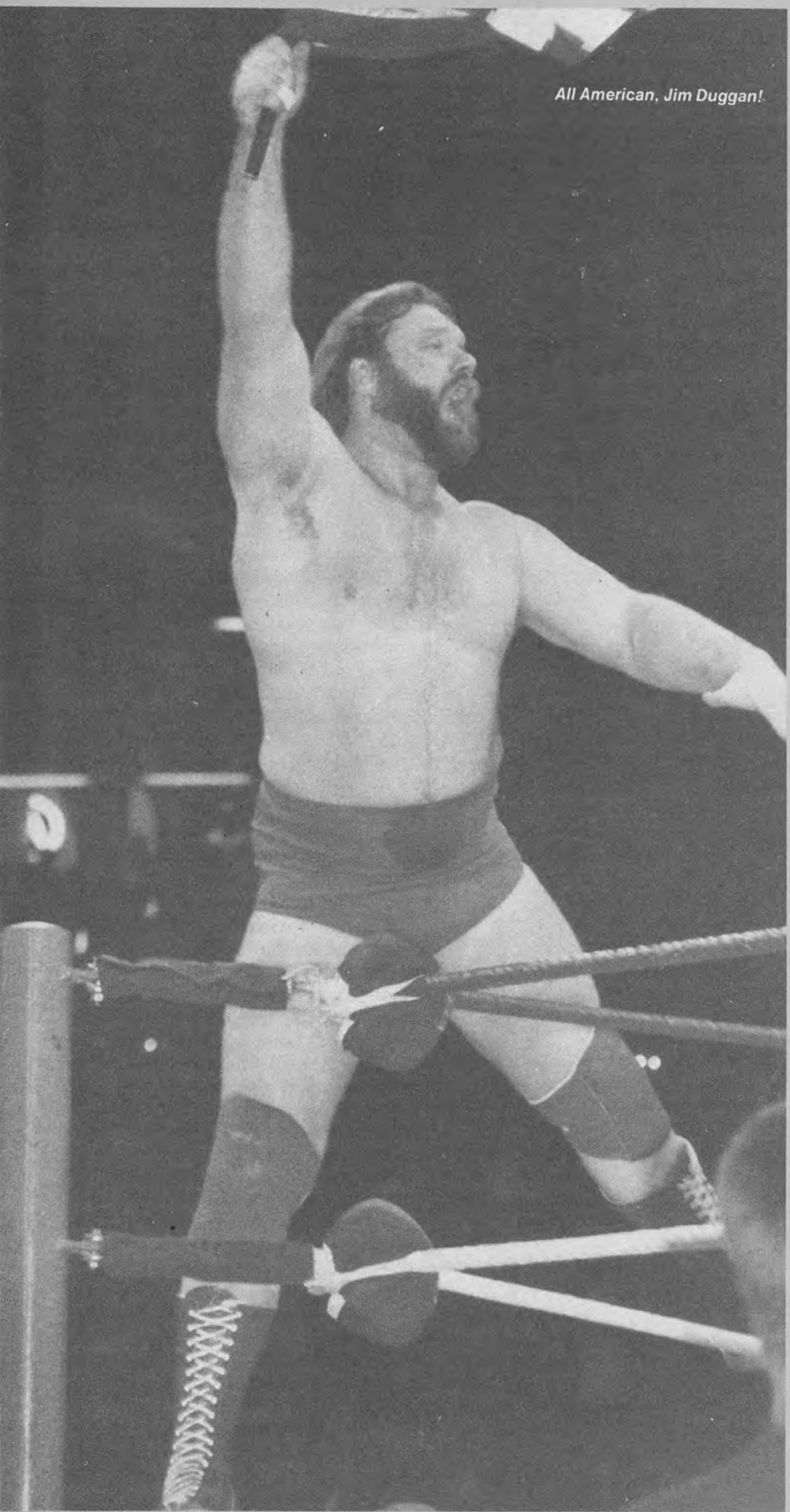
N The Loveable Superstar! By TOM CLUTTERS

Life in the World Wrestling Federation can usually be described in one of two ways. Either it is the best career move a wrestler can make, or it is such a gigantic mistake that some never recover fully. For Hacksaw Jim Duggan, he has seen both sides of the coin since arriving in early 1987.

Duggan attained star status in the ring during his tenure in the now-defunct Universal Wrestling Federation, where he held both the UWF single and tag team titles. Following his defeat in a "loser leave town" match to the One Man Gang (now known as Akeem), Duggan accepted a very lucrative offer to come to work for Vince McMahon. Hacksaw was an immediate hit with WWF fans, who loved his hard-nosed ring style and lovable demeanor. However, trouble lurked just around the corner.

Smack in the middle of a fierce feud with the Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff, Duggan was arrested on May 27, 1987, by New Jersey police, and was charged with drinking alcohol while operating a motor vehicle, and for possession of marijuana. As if all of this wasn't enough, it was revealed that a passenger in Duggan's vehicle was also arrested for drug possession. Problem was, that passenger was none other than the Iron Sheik himself. It was a confusing and embarrassing situation for everyone involved, and WWF officials, as usual, tried to sweep the whole situation under the rug. As a result, the Iron Sheik was fired by the federation, and Duggan was suspended. Although no one has ever satisfactorily explained what really did happen, the incident has been forgotten by most fans.

Duggan returned to action in August, and was greeted by the same loyal fan support. He immediately took up a campaign against his former friend, Ted "Million Dollar Man" DiBiase. The roots of Duggan's dislike for DiBiase go back to their UWF days when, despite Hacksaw's protests, DiBiase hired Skandor Akbar as his manager. Many people regard



All American, Jim Duggan!

that time of his career as the key to Duggan's current love of patriotism and the American way. While engaged in his hard-fought series with the Million Dollar Man, it was probably inevitable that Hacksaw would be forced to confront Andre the Giant, a DiBiase ally. Andre had made his presence known during several of the Duggan/DiBiase matches, and finally, Hacksaw decided to take matters into his own hands. During a memorable confrontation on national television, Andre attacked Duggan and began to choke him down with the strap from his singlet. A bleeding and semi-conscious Duggan struggled to find his old friend, his 2x4. Andre was so intent on demolishing his victim with head butts, he didn't notice when Hacksaw finally managed to grab his board. Another head butt into the solid oak sent the Giant crashing to the mat, knocked cold. The feud with DiBiase and Andre continued for most of 1988, but despite suffering some horrible beatings along the way, Duggan refused to ask for anyone's help.

Late last year, Hacksaw decided to become a "super patriot" of sorts, brandishing an American flag in addition to his 2x4, and began challenging anyone with an anti-American attitude. Needless to say, the fans loved it. They invariably answered his cries of, "Hoooooooo!!!" in every arena, and his popularity increased almost daily. His list of victories over foreign opposition included the Bolsheviks, Volkoff and Boris Zukhov, Butcher LeDuc, King Haku, and even the Iron Sheik, who returned for a brief time. Although his opponents were usually "foreign scum" as he called them, one man stepped to the forefront of anti-Americanism, and grabbed Duggan's attention. That man was Canadian strongman Dino Bravo.

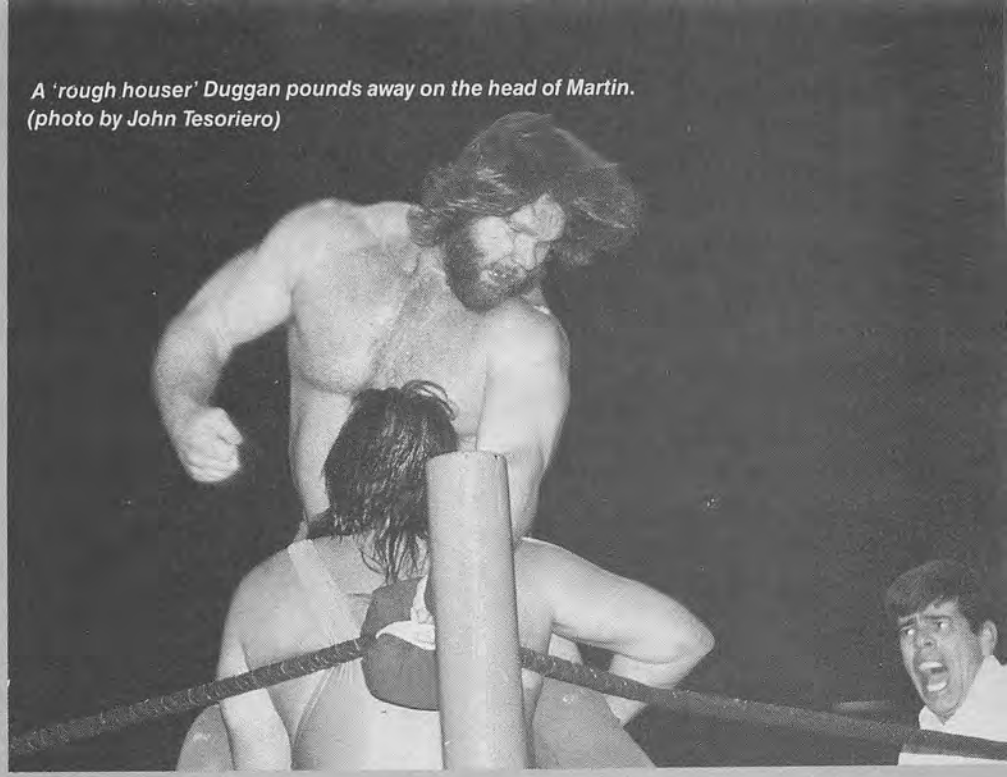
Bravo, a former darling of the fans, had made no secret of his dislike for Americans, even though he had formed a very successful tag team with Greg "The Hammer" Valentine at one point. It wasn't until manager Frenchy Martin came along, however, that the bleached blonde Bravo became even more arrogant against everything American (except American dollars, of course). "USA Is Not

OK'' was emblazoned on the sign that Martin carried to ringside for every match, and Duggan took offense in the strongest sense of the word. He issued an immediate challenge to his Canadian foe, who gladly accepted. The violent war lasted well into 1989, and provided the public with many thrilling moments. Eventually, Bravo grew weary of trying to get his point across, and after several clear Duggan wins, Dino withdrew from the feud.

Following the end of his battles with Bravo, Hacksaw Duggan now finds himself without suitable anti-USA opponents. Maybe, just maybe, it could be time to try something else.

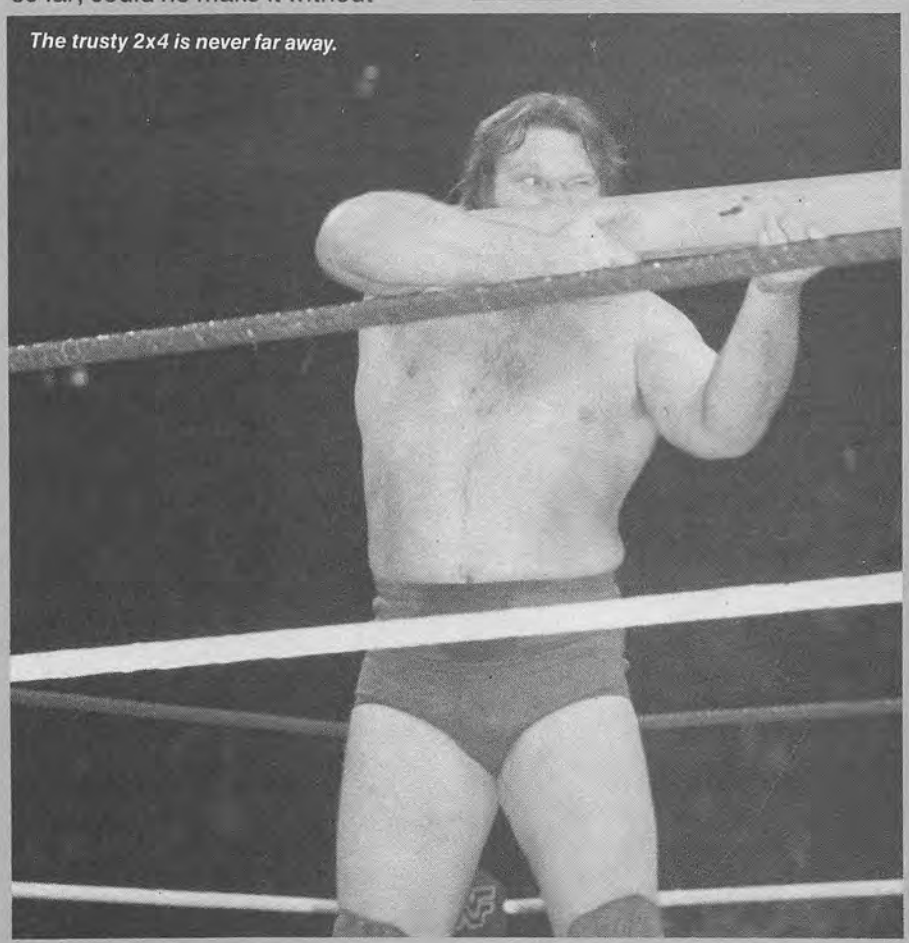
Hacksaw is certainly no stranger to championship belts. He won the North American title from Buzz Sawyer back on March 16, 1986. Technically, he was champion when the old Mid-South alliance was re-named the Universal Wrestling Federation a short time later, and Duggan was forced to relinquish his championship, since officials decided to start fresh with a UWF title tournament. Hacksaw entered the tournament, and was scheduled to meet Freebird Terry Gordy in the finals. However, just prior to the match, he was attacked by Michael Hayes and several others, and was no match for Gordy, who won the tourney. Duggan then teamed up with Terry Taylor to win the federation tag team titles on December 27 from Wild Bill Irwin and Bad Leroy Brown, but Hacksaw caught everyone, including Taylor, off guard when he vaulted to the WWF. Since then, he has shown no desire for a title match, and has never had a regular partner by his side.

Maybe it's time to mount a championship challenge. Unfortunately, it may be time for a change of attitude in order to accomplish this, since WWF rules don't allow fan favorites to meet in the ring, and most of the WWF gold is held by Hacksaw's friends. Anyway, Duggan wasn't a very popular man during his initial years in the ring, so a switch to rulebreaker wouldn't be that much of a change. Should he decide to change, there are a number of managers in the federation who would surely be eager to sign him. Duggan is a rugged, powerful individual who relies little on scientific skills to get by. A ''natural'' heel, if you will.



A 'rough houser' Duggan pounds away on the head of Martin. (photo by John Tesoriero)

Before making his next move, Hacksaw will almost certainly consider how important his fans really are to him. After all, the cheers of his people have helped him greatly so far; could he make it without them? Will he make the decision so many others have made—that while the cheers are nice, it's title belts that bring in the really big bucks. It should be very interesting to see which path Hacksaw Jim Duggan chooses before the year is over.



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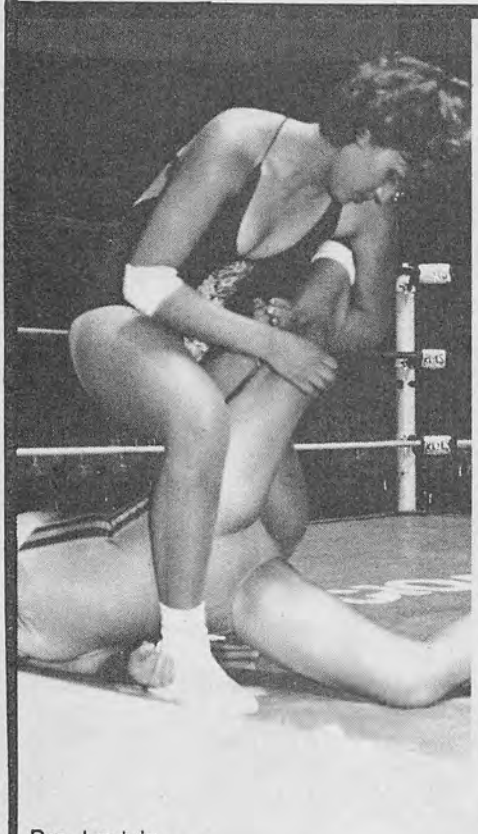

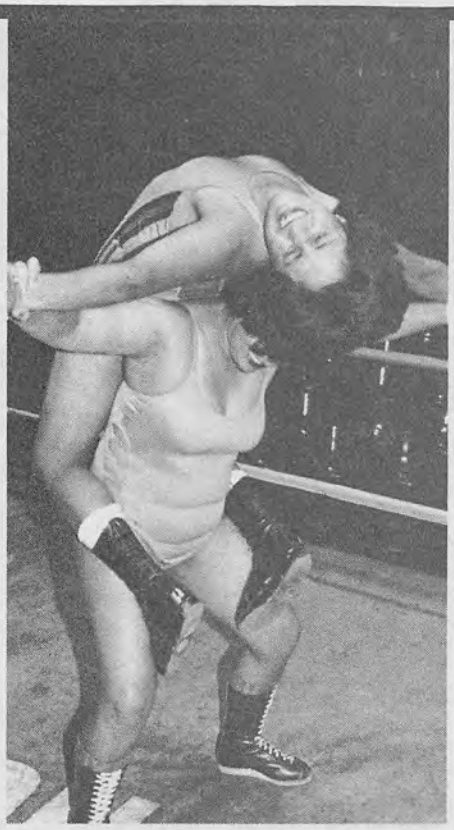

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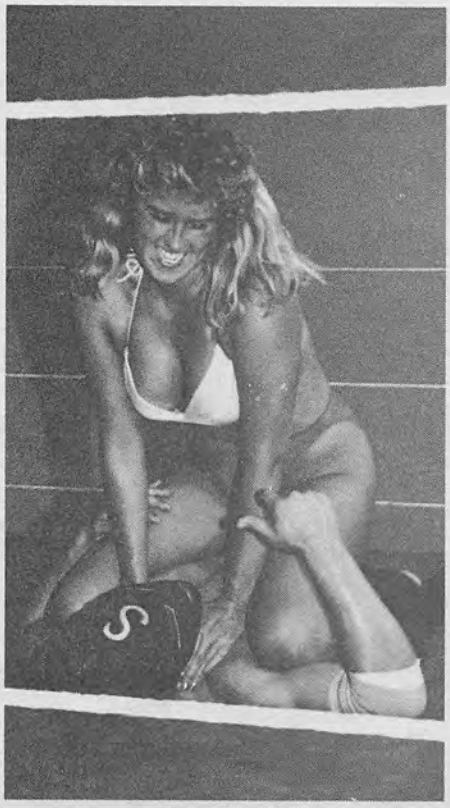

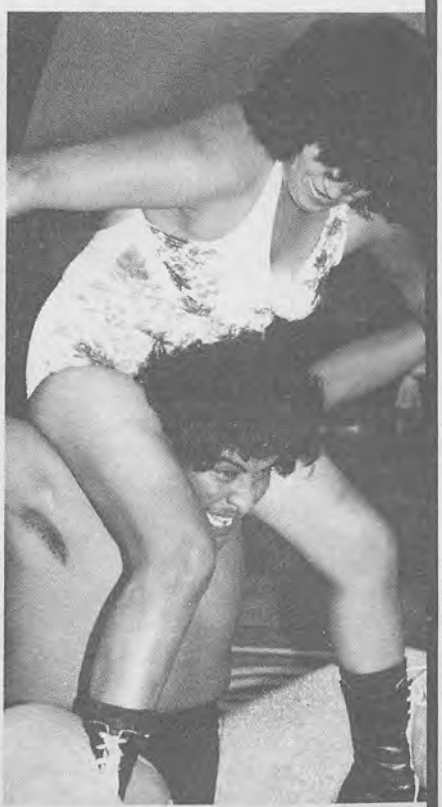

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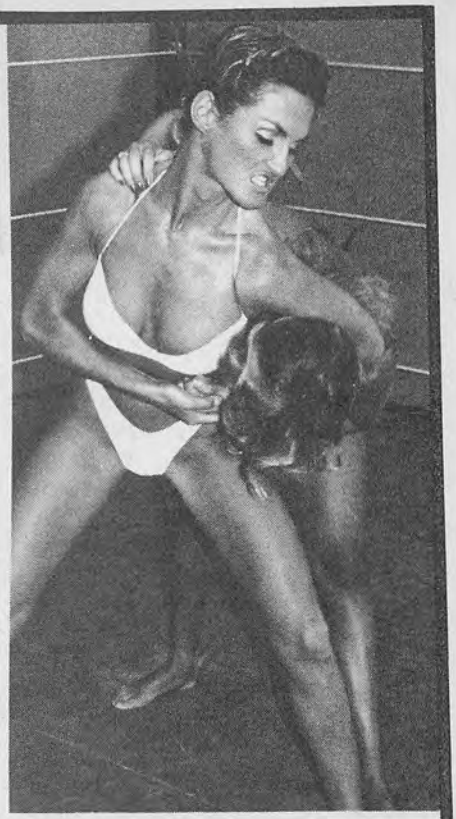

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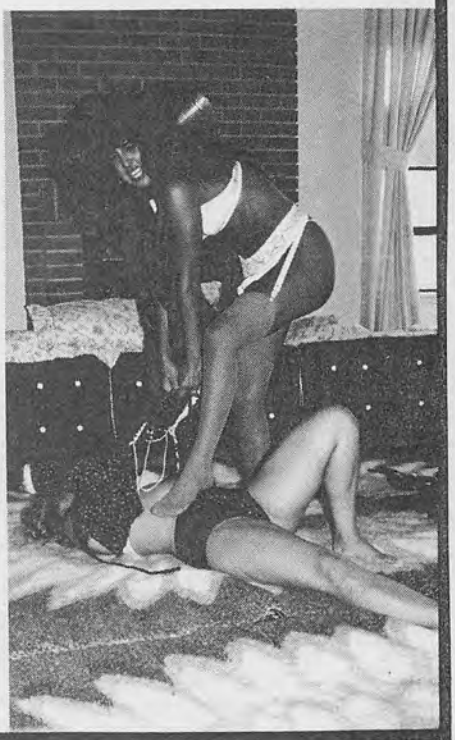

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THE IRISH

A Little Pack Of Power

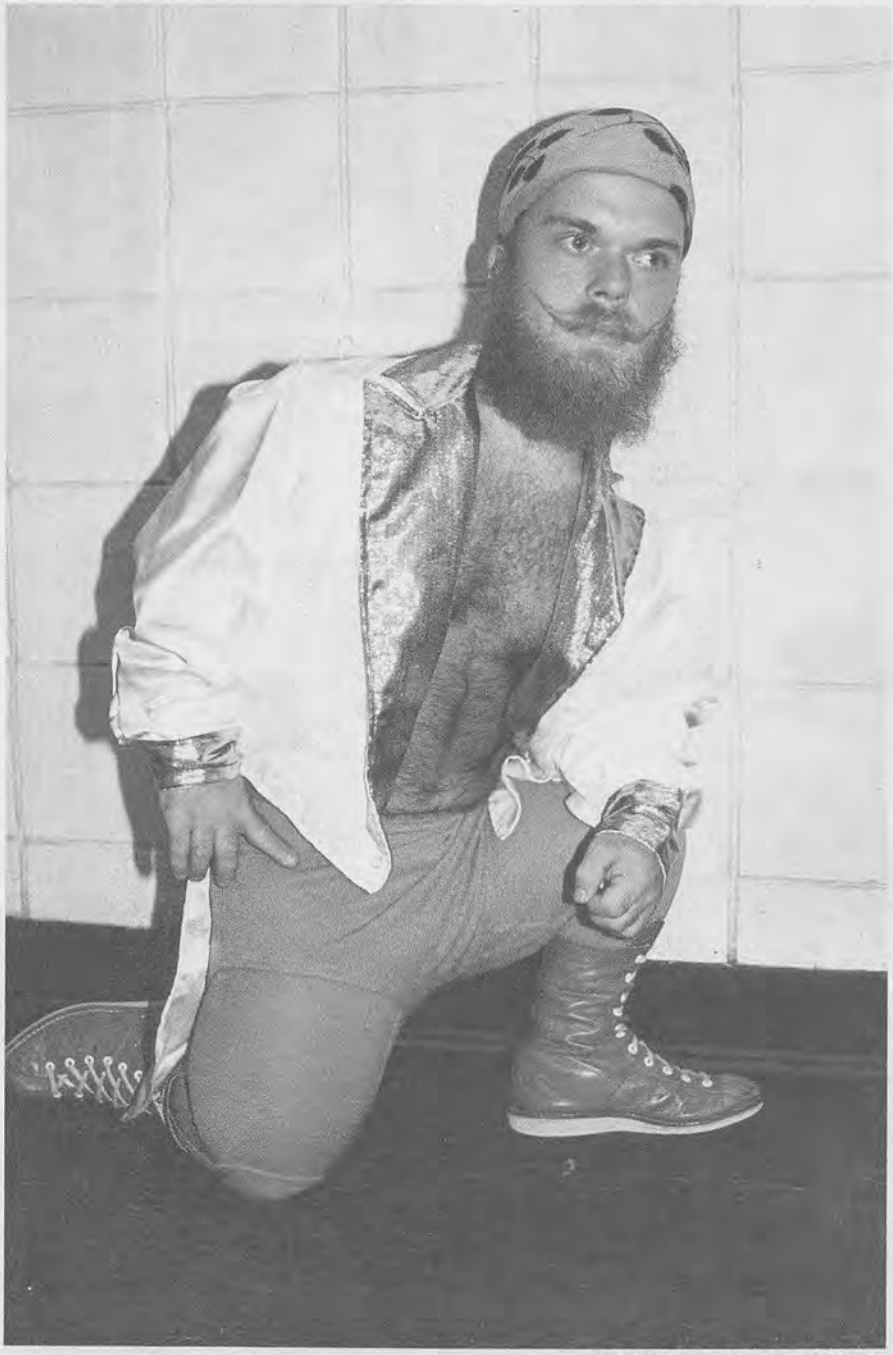
By DON LAIBLE

Big things do come in small packages. He doesn't proclaim to be the strongest or tallest wrestler in the pro ranks today. A strong case can be made in his defense of being one of the quickest and most agile competitors in the ring. Already, with only three years of mat experience, Jeff Ludy, known throughout the wrestling world as The Irish Leprechaun, is already viewed by fans and promoters as the top midget attraction in the sport. No other wrestler in his division has been able to successfully combine athletics and entertainment as the Leprechaun has today. Word of his talents has spread rapidly. Promoters in the Carribean, the Orient, and up and down the Eastern seaboard have been fiercely competing among each other for booking dates with wrestling's latest celebrity. Dedication and perseverance has taken the 4'6" 110 lb. Boston, Massachusetts resident giant steps among his competition. The climb to the top of the rankings has been an inspiring, cheerful journey for The Irish Leprechaun.

"When I graduated from high school I wasn't sure what career direction to take. A friend of mine who had been wrestling professionally for about a year suggested I visit "Killer" Kowalski's training school in Malden, Ma. After one visit, I was sold on the idea of getting into the sport. It was eight months of three hour workouts, three times a week before I was a graduate of the program. The most important ingredient I gained after going through the program was becoming more confident in all aspects of my life," said the Leprechaun. After capturing a victory in his pro debut in Stamford, Connecticut over Tiger Jackson, the Leprechaun, the son of Irish immigrants, has pushed his athletic energies full speed ahead to rapidly advance in the rankings.

Two New England based promotions, the International Wrestling Federation and International Championship Wrestling have signed The Irish Leprechaun to a number of open contracts. Thus far, the major competition confronting the Boston native has come from Dana Carpenter and Little Louie. Both men, even for their division, tower over the pint sized Leprechaun. Carpenter stands 4'10" and Louie is 4'10" and 120 lbs. Neither of his opponent's physical attributes have put the slightest bit of fear into the Leprechaun. Whether in mixed tag matches or in singles competition, the Leprechaun has come out smelling like a rose, or should I say four leaf clover.

Most recently in Gardner, Ma.



The Irish Leprechaun, Jeff Ludy.

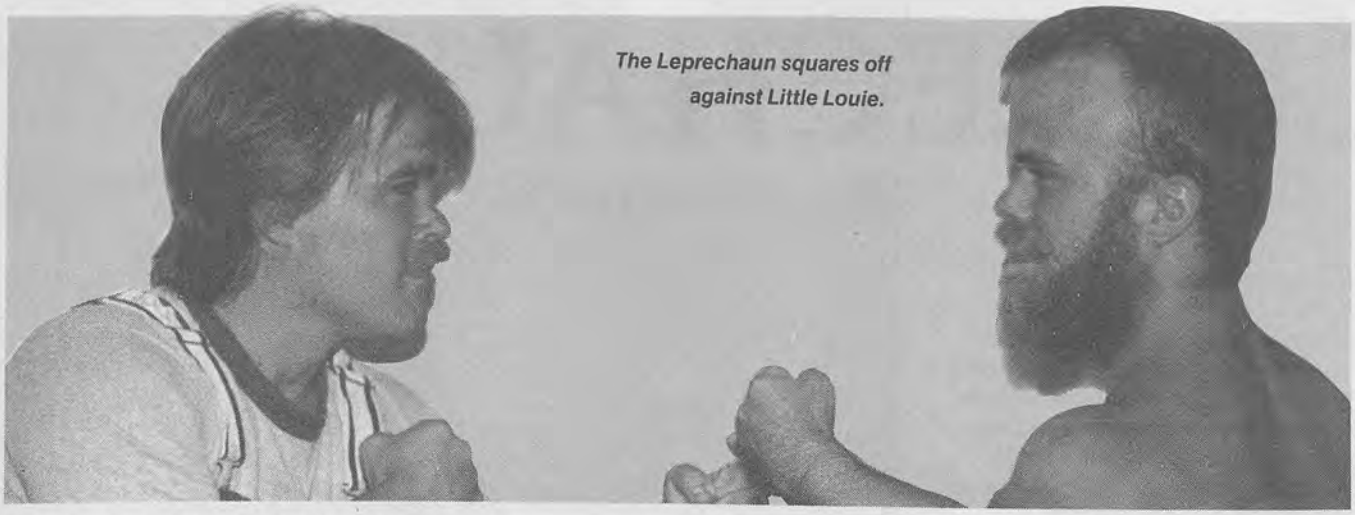
LEPRECHAUN

Quite a ladies man, Jeff poses with Misty Blue.

the Leprechaun paired up with female sensation Kat Leroux in opposing the unit of Little Louie and the lovely Misty Blue. The fans on hand for the unique confrontation were treated to a fast paced, action packed thirty minutes of wrestling. Although Misty did get a few surprise shots, mostly bodyslams, on her smaller opponent, the Leprechaun concentrated his powers mainly on Louie. The two went at attacking one another with such a vengeance, on two occasions Referee Steve Driscoll threatened both men with disqualification. With Leroux keeping Misty Blue at a distance from the guys, the Leprechaun put the finishing touch on Little Louie by scooping him up and applying an "airplane spin" hold. When Louie was dropped flat on his back, the Leprechaun covered his fallen foe for what was now an academic three count by the referee.

What has over a dozen active midget wrestlers in North America all working a bit harder in the ring these days is the IWF's plans on crowning a champion of the midget ranks. Not for many years has there been one midget singled out as the king of his division. "I don't get caught up in the publicity promoters put out on me. All I want to do is have fun wrestling. At times when you have your lip split open or have your back wrenched, the pain reminds you that you truly have to be in the ring because you enjoy the competition, the constant challenge. However, with the creation of a championship it would be advantageous to any one of us vying for the belt to get in a few more workouts each week and get a bit more serious when it comes to studying reports on upcoming challengers," the Leprechaun stated.

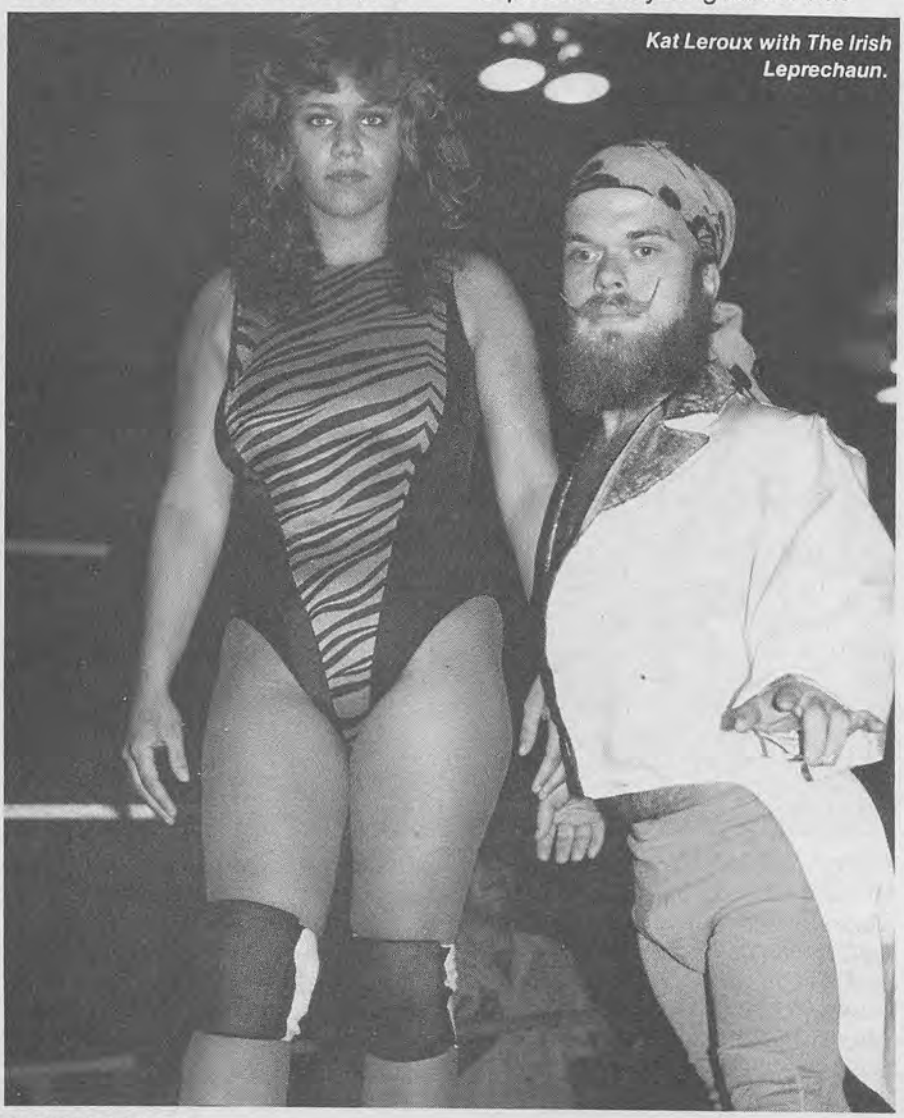
Perhaps the wisest way for the Leprechaun to prepare for one of the most important matches he'll ever be confronted with is to broaden his sights on all different opponents and styles of wrestling they represent. That's exactly the route he has taken. The Leprechaun sees regular mat action in the Northeast, Puerto Rico, Western Canada and recently did a one week tour in the Pacific Northwest. He is now molded into a well rounded wrestler. In Seattle, Washington, when participating in yet another mix tag match, the Leprechaun experienced his most recent ring injury, one that was considered serious enough to prompt his doctors to suggest he consider another line of employment. The Black Venus, a muscular 5'9" 135 lb. female bodybuilder turned wrestler refused to tag off to



The Leprechaun squares off against Little Louie.

her smaller teammate Little Butis and went to work on her hapless foe. The Leprechaun was knocked down as a result of a leg sweep, the Venus climbed to the top rope and landed full speed down on the young Irishman's out stretched, unprotected right leg. The Leprechaun's knee took the blow. Unable to continue the match, he was taken to a local hospital where his condition was diagnosed as a severely sprained knee. The ligaments were strained as well. Eager to get back into the thick of the title picture, six weeks later The Irish Leprechaun was back in between the ropes.

One of the high points of the Leprechaun's young career was having the opportunity to wrestle perhaps the greatest midget grappler of all-time—Sky Low Low. The match, which was approached and carried through in a scientific manner, took place in Montreal, Canada. What an exhibition of skills! Sky was impressed with the "ring smarts" the Leprechaun already displayed so early in the match and the Leprechaun was in amazement of what mobility and agility a man of Sky's age still possessed. Unquestionably, it was a memorable matchup both wrestlers found rewarding.



Kat Leroux with The Irish Leprechaun.

"The Leprechaun is one tough dynamo. He takes his craft seriously in the respect that he is very much aware of his physical appearance. You won't find him eating "junk food," he's a physical fitness fanatic. The Leprechaun is also extremely weight conscious. The ring jackets he wears are always neatly pressed and I've never seen him turn away kids asking for an autograph. He's so nice, some people find it difficult to believe he's for real," David Sammartino stated.

Overcoming odds isn't new to The Irish Leprechaun in wrestling. Since childhood he has been involved in an uphill battle to succeed in a world that is tailor made for larger people. He doesn't view his height as a handicap but as an asset. Who knows, if it weren't for his size, The Irish Leprechaun may not have received the lucrative earnings and world travel he enjoys today. A sport in the truest sense of the word, The Irish Leprechaun is an exemplary athlete whom an overwhelming majority of parents would be only too happy to have their children emulate.

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matches in the Twin Cities, results from the major federations plus news stories and info are what's promised each month. The first issue was nicely laid out. Looking forward to seeing future issues.
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PEN PALS

JOSEPH RUSSO—1130 STADIUM AVE 4B, Bronx, NY 10465 is offering top dollar for any posters, buttons, VHS tapes etc. on Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat. Also wants to hear from all his fans.

ALLENE AYCOCK—Route 1, Box 304A, Smithfield, NC 27577 likes Lex Luger, Sting, Stan Lane and the Rock 'n Roll Express. Will answer all letters.

KRISTI JOHNSON—Rte 1, Box 65A, Council Hill, Ok 74428 is interested in hearing from anyone who thinks the WWF has gotten out of hand.

ALEX RODRIGUEZ—Age 14, 1025 Broadway #117, Chula Vista, Ca 92011 would like to hear from all fans of the Ultimate Warrior, Rockin' Robin, Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake, Randy "Macho Man" Savage, Hulk Hogan and Jake "the Snake" Roberts.

PAULA SCHOFIELD—Age 24, 290 North Rd, Sudbury, Mass 01776 would like to hear from fans of the Ultimate Warrior, Brutus Beefcake, Don Muraco, Bret Hart, Strike Force, Rockers, Blue Blazer, Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage and the Powers of Pain. She would also like to hear from fans who can't stand Brother Love, Andre the Giant, Ted DiBiase, Honky Tonk Man and Jimmy Hart.

CINDY NEED—Age 13, 6031 208th St SW, Apt #B-2, Lynnwood, Wa 98036 loves Sting, Dusty Rhodes and Lex Luger. She also likes the Horsemen and the Rock 'n Roll Express.

JENNIFER MEIER—Age 15, 3045 Inwood Dr, Massillon, Ohio 44646 likes Curt Hennig, Rick Rude, Sting, the Four Horsemen, and Powers of Pain. She HATES Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, Rock 'n Roll Express, "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan and Koko B. Ware.

TOM OUTTEN—Age 16, 434 N. Rose St, Baltimore, Md 21224 would like to hear from fans of the Hart Foundation, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Rick Steiner, Midnight Express, Brutus Beefcake, Sting and the Road Warriors.

MARK HARPER—Age 19, 239 Wacaster St, Jackson, Ms 39209 would like to hear from Sting, Lex Luger and Kerry Von Erich fans. Any information is welcomed.

DARREN POWELL—1235 Baker Rd, Dexter, Mi 48130 would like to hear from fans of Lex Luger, Sting, Badd Company, Top Guns, Hercules Hernandez, Hulk Hogan, the WWF and the NWA.

JACKIE LEWIS—Age 17, PO Box 1338, Globe Az 85502 would love to hear from fans of Sting, Lex Luger, Nikita Koloff, Top Guns, Rock 'n Roll Express, Terry Taylor, Chris Adams, Ultimate Warrior, Steve Cox, Kerry and Kevin Von Erich, British Bulldogs and Brutus Beefcake.

BEVERLY OANCIA—Age 26, 27 Deis Bay, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4R-5R2 would like to hear from all serious fans of Barry Windham, Sting, Lex Luger, Bret and Owen Hart, Stan Lane, the Midnight Express and the Fantastics.

THELMA LEWIS—Age 22, PO Box 1338, Globe, Az 85502 would like to hear from fans of Lex Luger, Sting, Rock 'n Roll Express, Top Guns and Barry Windham. Will answer all letters.

LORI ANN PERRY—Age 14½, Route 2, Box 704, Bladenboro, NC 28320 would like to hear from fans of Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, Brutus Beefcake and lots more.

COLINDA DUBEAU—Age 17, Rue Martine #10, Otter Lake, Quebec, Box 119, JOV 2PO would like to hear from anyone who likes wrestling, especially the WWF, the NWA, Brutus Beefcake, Ultimate Warrior and Lex Luger.

BILL-JO BALWIN—Box 35, Hale, Iowa 52230 would like to hear from fans who hope to become wrestlers and fans of the NWA, AWA, WWF and World Class.

WANTED TO TRADE, SELL OR BUY

BOB PIVOROFF—2409 South 3rd St, Phila, Pa 19148 has wrestling autographs, photos and matches on tape for sale. He would also like to hear from fans of Greg Valentine.

TERRY RAY DEASON—1400 S. Alvord Lane, Evansville, In 47714 has wrestling magazines for sale. Send a SASE for list.

MARK GALLO—Box 50657, Cicero, Il 60650-0657 has many wrestling magazines and programs for sale or trade. Send a long SASE for list.

MARK MIREANDA—115 Monroe Ave, Staten Island, NY 10301 has an extensive collection of wrestling magazines from the past and present for 50% off the cover price. Also selling wrestling T-shirts, posters, programs, hats and buttons at discount prices. Send for a free price list.

MATTHEW MacDONALD—Story Rapids, Sask, Gen Del., S0J-2RO Canada would like to trade or buy tapes of the Rock 'n Roll Express NWA tag team title reigns or defenses or their war against Badd Company or the Midnight Rockers in the AWA. He is also interested in trading for Ricky's single (Boogie Woogie Dance Hall) and wants a life sized poster of Ricky and Robert.

WRESTLING EYE'S

W.W.F.
CHAMP—HULK HOGAN

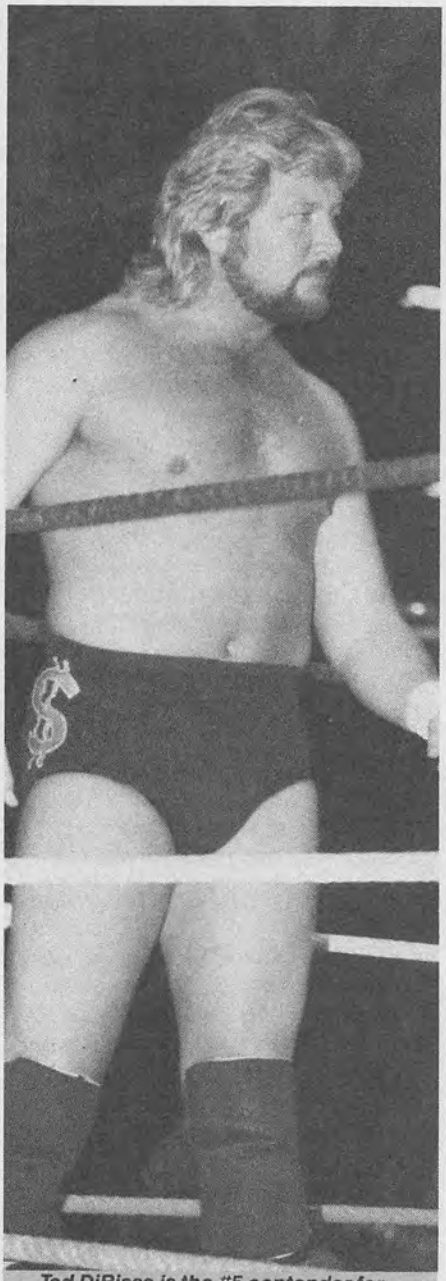
1. Randy Savage
2. Ultimate Warrior
3. Andre the Giant
4. Rick Rude
5. Ted Dibiase
6. Brutus Beefcake
7. Honky Tonk Man
8. Bret Hart
9. Curt Hennig
10. Terry Taylor
11. Blue Blazer
12. Jake Roberts
13. Big Boss Man
14. Akeem
15. Ronnie Garvin

N.W.A.
CHAMP—RIC FLAIR

1. Barry Windham
2. Ricky Steamboat
3. Sting
4. Lex Luger
5. Rick Steiner
6. Kevin Sullivan
7. Mike Rotunda
8. Steve Williams
9. Dick Murdoch
10. Abdullah the Butcher
11. Bobby Fulton
12. Tommy Rogers
13. Kendall Windham
14. Butch Reed
15. Michael Hayes

N.W.F.

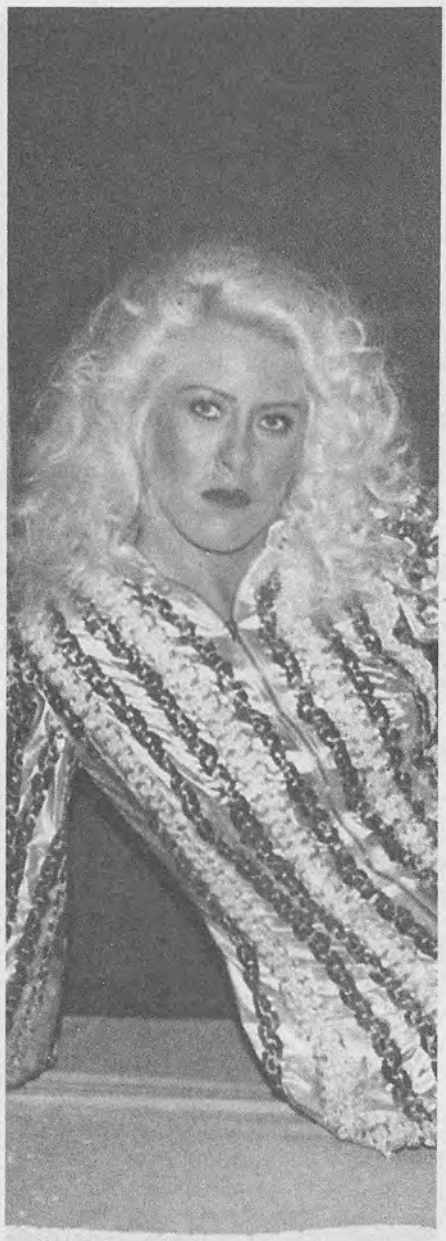
1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. Jules Strongbow
3. Larry Winters
4. David Schultz
5. Cousin Luke
6. Silo Sam
7. Russian Assassin
8. Col. DeBeers
9. Mr. Anthony
10. Eddie Mirrenda



Ted DiBiase is the #5 contender for the WWF belt.

N.C.W.

1. Johnny Rodz
2. Abdullah the Butcher
3. Mondo Kleen
4. Ted Arcidi
5. Toru Tanaka
6. Johnny V.
7. Cousin Luke
8. Larry Sharpe
9. The Heartthrob
10. Diesel Don



Debbie Combs, the #4 lady wrestler.

U.S.W.A.

1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. The Bruiser
3. Rocky Johnson
4. Afu the Wild Samoan
5. Don Kent
6. Dr. Jerry Graham Jr.
7. Cheetah Kid
8. Tom Brandi
9. The Russian Assassin
10. Larry Winters

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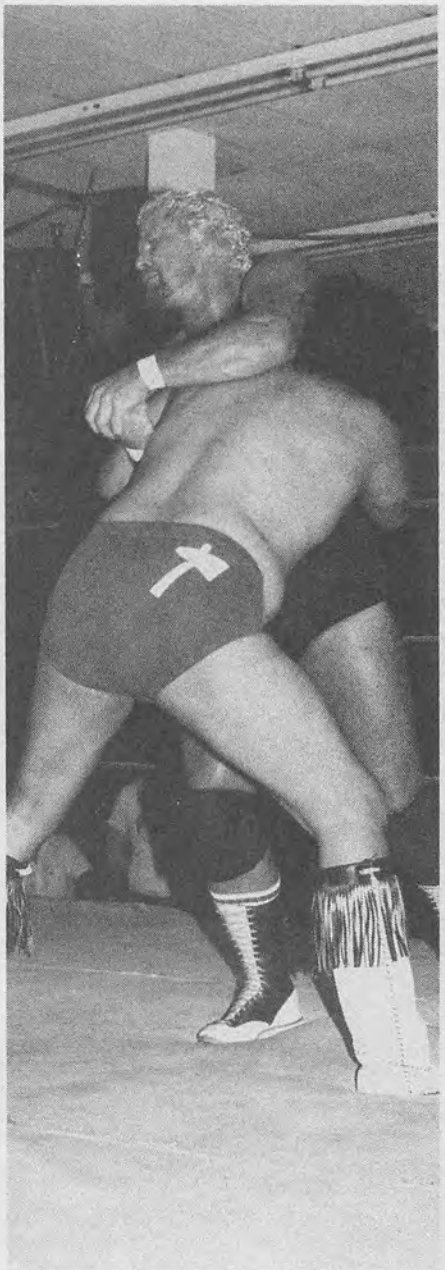
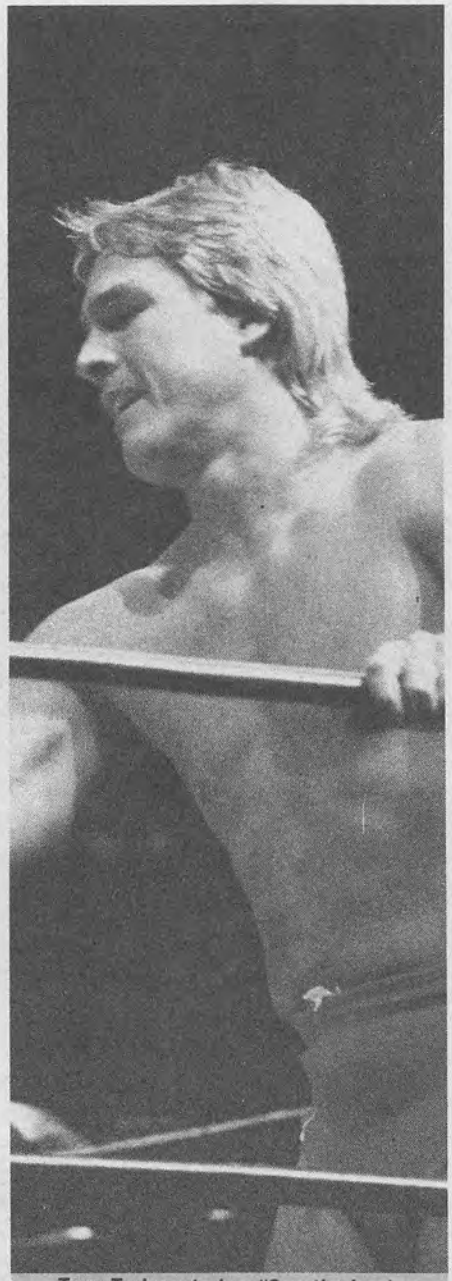


The #4 contender for the NWF title is none other than David Shultz.

A.W.A.

1. Larry Zbyszko
2. Don Muraco
3. Jerry Lawler
4. Wahoo McDaniel
5. Dusty Rhodes
6. Greg Gagne
7. Pat Tanaka
8. Col. DeBeers
9. Paul Diamond
10. Mondo Guerrero



Terry Taylor rated as #9 as the best wrestler in the world.

WORLD CLASS

1. Kerry Von Erich
2. Brickhouse Brown
3. Kevin Von Erich
4. Cactus Jack Manson
5. Eric Embry
6. Chris Adams
7. Gary Young
8. Super Black Ninja
9. Brian Adias
10. Buddy Roberts

WORLD'S WOMEN'S RATINGS

1. Madusa Miceli
2. Misty Blue
3. Wendi Richter
4. Debbie Combs
5. Heidi Lee Morgan
6. Linda Dallas
7. Candi Divine
8. Sherri Martel
9. Rockin' Robin
10. Kat Leroux

TOP 15 MANAGERS

1. Demolition
2. Midnight Express
3. Road Warriors
4. Brain Busters
5. Powers of Pain
6. The Rockers
7. The Varsity Club
8. The British Bulldogs
9. Badd Company
10. Rock 'n Roll Express
11. The Bushwackers
12. The Guerrero Brothers
13. The Samoan Swat Team
14. Terry Gordy and Stan Hansen
15. The Rougeaus

TOP 15 (rated by wrestling ability)

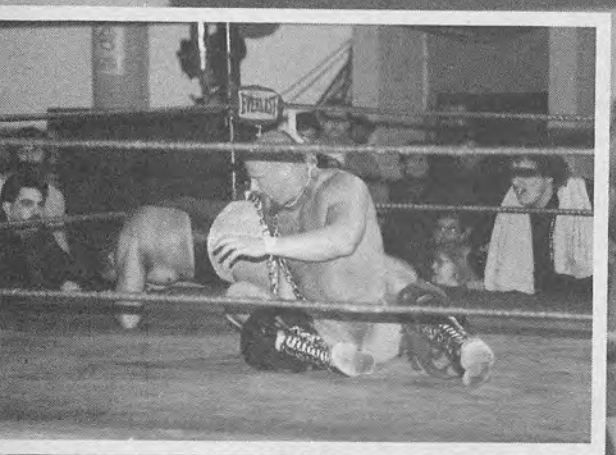
1. Rick Flair
2. Barry Windham
3. Ted Dibiase
4. Curt Hennig
5. Bret Hart
6. Tully Blanchard
7. Randy Savage
8. Dynamite Kid
9. Terry Taylor
10. The Cheetah Kid
11. Pat Tanaka
12. Mondo Guerrero
13. The Blue Blazer
14. Sting
15. Marty Jannetty

DOG COLLAR MATCH

Johnny Rodz vs. Mondo Kleen

By JOHN TESORIERO

Exhausted, Johnny prepares to pounce on Mondo.

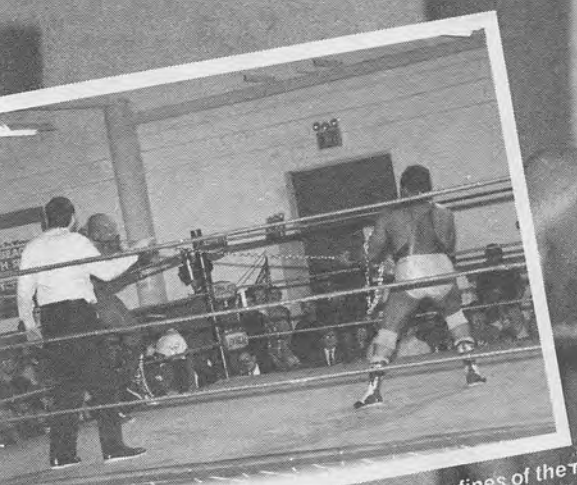


Both men dazed, attempt to get back to their feet.

The Unpredictable One unloads a fist to the jaw of the big man from California.

Mondo's manager, "Mr. Obnoxious" Hubie Marx, chuckles at the ringside audience

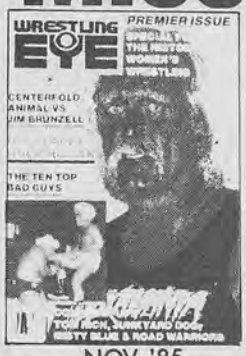
Mondo chokes Johnny with the steel linked seven foot chain.



Johnny tries to pull Mondo back into the confines of the ring.

Mondo unloads on Johnny Rodz.

MISS LAST MONTH'S ACTION?



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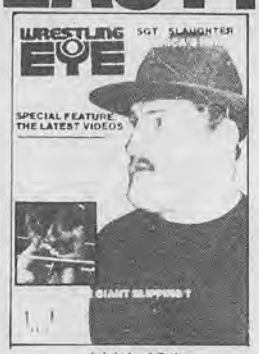

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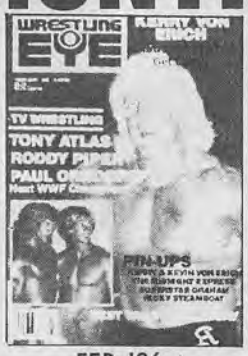

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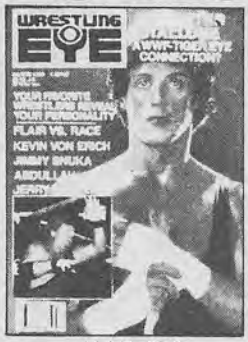

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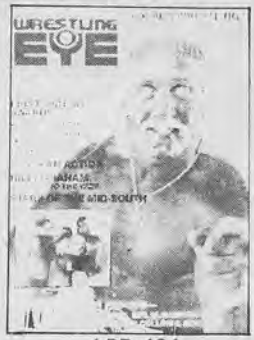

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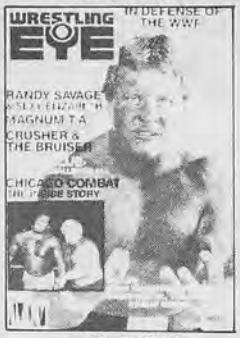

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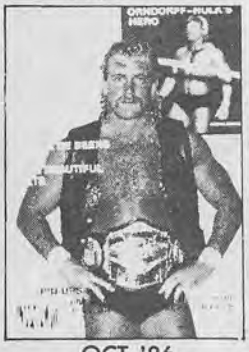

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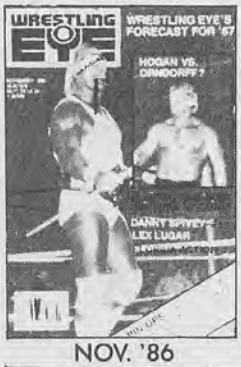

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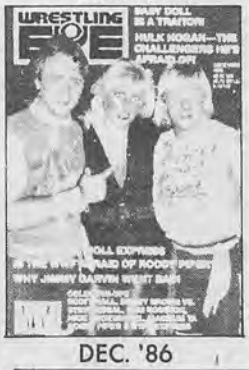

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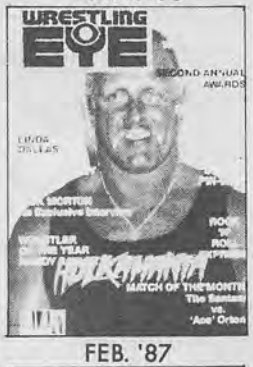

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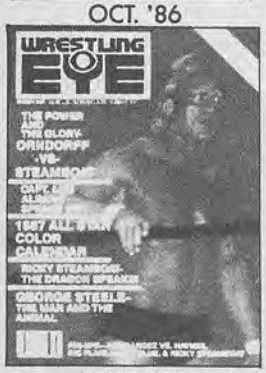

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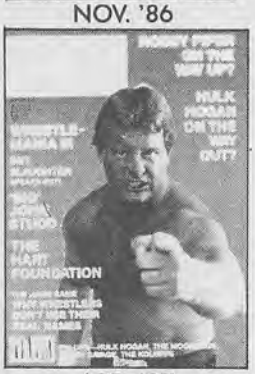

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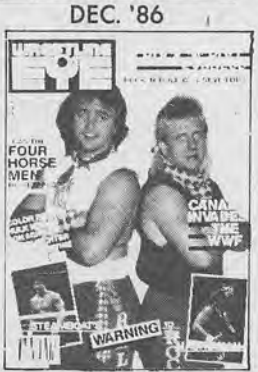

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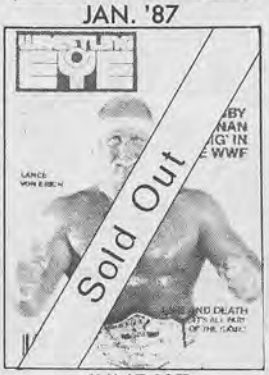

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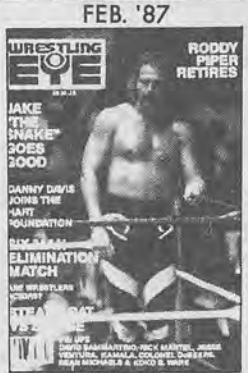

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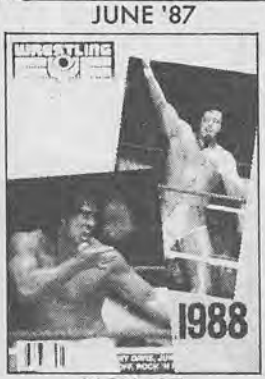

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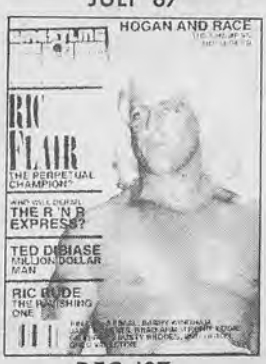

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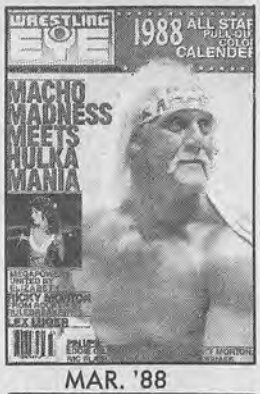

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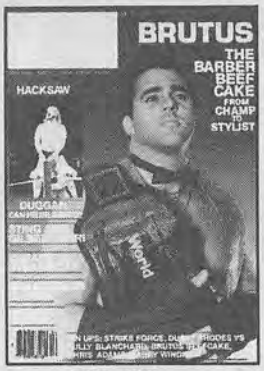

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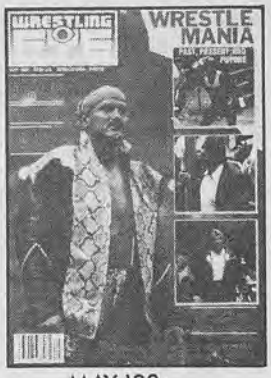

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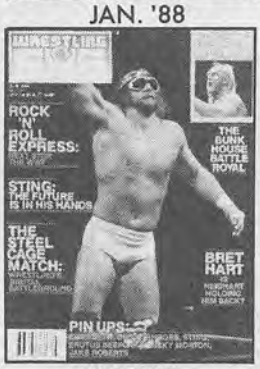

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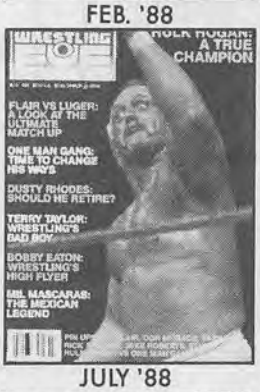

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Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Your Magazine is excellent. I love it. It's not a joke magazine like some of the others. I just hate to see what's happening to the WWF. For example, all this Brother Love garbage is just that, garbage. Look at the wrestlers McMahon is bringing in. Akeem, a Rooster and Mr. Perfect. What happened to serious wrestlers such as Strike Force, Young Stallions and my favorites, the British Bulldogs. These are serious wrestlers. They are all decent. So McMahon, drop the stupid acts and bring back REAL WRESTLING. I don't know where the British Bulldogs are but you can bet that if they were let go there will be chaos. They only reason I watch WWF wrestling is because of the Bulldogs and they are also the only reason I go to the arena. They are two of the greatest wrestlers ever and even Jesse Ventura comments that they are the best tag team pound for pound.

Eve Guerra
Astoria, NY

Editors Note: We don't know how to tell you this Eve, but here goes. The Bulldogs are no longer wrestling in the WWF. They are currently in Canada wrestling for Stampede.

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I love your magazine. It is the best! I just wrote because I would like to say that I think Hulk Hogan is being used. I think Randy "Macho Man" Savage is using Hulk Hogan to gain fans. This so called friendship between Hogan and Savage is *nothing*! Randy Savage is not the best wrestler ever. The only reason he has the World Wrestling Championship is because of Hulk Hogan. Sure, I have some respect for Randy Savage but only because he is the champ.

I have seen Randy Savage take Hulk Hogan for granted many times. For instance, on Saturday Night's Main Event, Savage didn't show up until Elizabeth was in trouble. If that was Randy Savage out there, the Hulkster would have gone to help him. C'mon Savage, give Hogan some credit!

Billi-Jo Baldwin
Hale, Iowa

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Hi, my name is Michelle and I am 14 years old. I love reading your magazine. I love your official ratings and color pin ups. Also, I am a real big fan of the WWF. I think Elizabeth is so pretty. My favorite tag team was the Hart Foundation until the Rockers came along.

Don't get me wrong, I still like Bret Hart but Sean Michaels and Marty Jannetty are just something to look at. They both have good strategies inside the ring and they are both good looking. I hope they capture the tag team titles and make a really good name for themselves. So keep on wrestling Sean and Marty 'cause I'll always be a true fan!

Michelle Gerrior
Halifax, Canada

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am 24 years old and I have been attending wrestling matches since the age of six. I have seen some of the best like John Toles, Victoria Riveria and even Roddy Piper when he first started out in the ring. Now, I want to know what gives others the right to put down the champion of the world, Randy Savage when he's winning all of his matches. I've seen him defeat Andre the Giant twice in 1988 at the Sports Arena in California. I have seen no sign of the champion slacking off, going soft or even playing second best to Hulk Hogan. Yes, Hulk's a truly great wrestler but who's got the belt around his waist? Randy Savage is the most impressive wrestler I've seen both in and outside of the ring. So why isn't credit given when credit is due? He's only been in the WWF for five years and he's already held 2 of the 3 belts you can hold. (Wow!). So until he has a major downfall, let's give the champion of the world some most deserved respect.

Randy Harabedian
Whittier, Ca

Dear Editor,

When people say the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) is in a class all by itself they weren't kidding. In my opinion that class is the lowest class. There is no doubt they have an advantage in regards to the polish on their television show but when it comes down to true wrestling ability, which I don't have to remind you is still the name of the game, they are in a distant

last place. When viewers tune in to their shows they don't commend them on their desire to show classic matches, instead they rely heavily on gimmicks that are outrageous and ridiculous. For instance, take Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage, these two men have been hashed and rehashed over and over again. I know I don't speak alone when I say that I am sick of these worn out, dilapidated middle aged, balding men and as far as Elizabeth is concerned, she is strongly resembling a common street walker peeling her clothes off to save destitute men.

The whole WWF organization appears to be somewhat of a circus sideshow with freaks such as Andre, George Steele, Akeem and the list goes on. One has to wonder if they are aiming for such a despicable reputation, if so they have definitely succeeded. I believe any wrestler with true talent would not be able to last long in this organization due to the fact that a genuine wrestler could not bear to be degraded to a whimsical puppet of sorts.

You may conceive this to be one solitary opinion but I do believe that many people have lost much interest in the WWF. As much as they try to disguise it with frequent camera switching, while watching the television production I have noticed many vacant seats in the crowd which proves to me that the once thriving dignified promotion has now regressed in nothing more than a house of ill repute.

Disgusted
Calgary, Canada

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed Don Laible's article "Wrestling's Top Ten Females", (March 89). However, I cannot totally agree with his rankings nor your Official Ratings of the same issue.

I was very disappointed to see my favorite girl wrestler, The Magnificent Mimi, not only eliminated from the top ten, but called a "rookie from California" as well as an "'upstart wrestler". Mimi may be a new face on the pro circuit but she is the most "magnificent" thing to hit women's wrestling in a very long time.

Magnificent Mimi is beautiful, sexy, athletic, and one of the most talented wrestlers I've ever seen and I think she will soon take the championship away from those top ten mentioned in the article. I am looking forward to seeing Mimi take on the likes of The Black Venus, Debbie Combs and Linda Dallas.

I became an immediate fan of the Magnificent Mimi when I saw her compete in one of her first matches in Las Vegas on the AWA circuit. She won and what a performance and appearance! Superior wrestling talent coupled with beauty and sex appeal! Mimi entered the ring in tight, black wrestling boots and a high cut, silver lame suit that left little to the imagination. Every guy watching her became her instant fan!

Say what you will, this gal is going places in pro wrestling!

J.J. Henry
Hartford, Ct

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think Rick Steiner is the cutest thing on two legs. He is the most endearing wrestler I have seen in a long time. I love the way he talks to his "manager" Alex. It just goes to show you that if you believe in something strongly enough it comes true. For example, Rick says that he gets all his inspiration from Alex. He knows deep down that there is no Alex, he is gaining the strength to win from deep down in his soul. The wrestling world should realize that Rick Steiner is the best thing to happen to the sport in a long time. He has an inner strength that is second to none and I certainly hope he remains champ for a long time to come.

Kim Matthews
Chicago, IL

Dear Editor,

I have an open letter to Elizabeth.

Dear Elizabeth, as much as I like the Macho Man I don't know what his problem is. He has a really bad attitude towards Hulk Hogan. At least I didn't understand until I saw Hogan stealing all his attention. At first I didn't blame you and thought Randy was just being jealous for nothing. After all, you do manage both and you did what any good manager would do. You asked for help when Hogan was in trouble and you did the right thing by tending to Hogan when he was injured. Savage had no reason to be jealous, or mad. That is, until now. Now I see that every time Macho Man turned his back, Hogan would show off his body. As soon as he'd turn back towards Hogan, Hogan would point to Savage making him believe that the crowd was cheering for him. Hogan is a sneaky, egotistical show off! Randy Savage is loyal and faithful to you, Elizabeth. He also showed what a good sport he was when he forgave his "friend" for eliminating him in the Royal Rumble. Elizabeth, stick by your man and don't ruin your good reputation over such a self-centered bum like Hulk Hogan!

Linda Cossey
Rochester, NY

Reader Jann Bell wants to see more Rockers!

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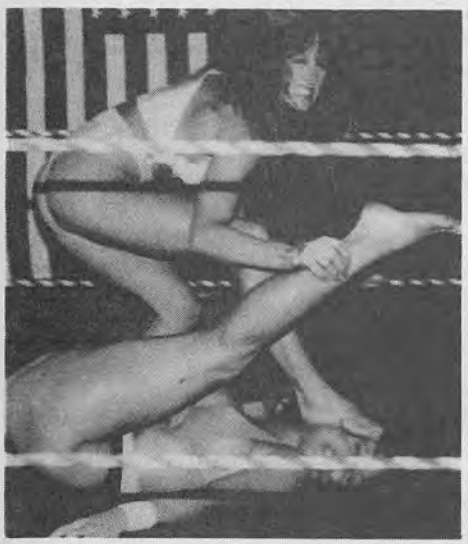

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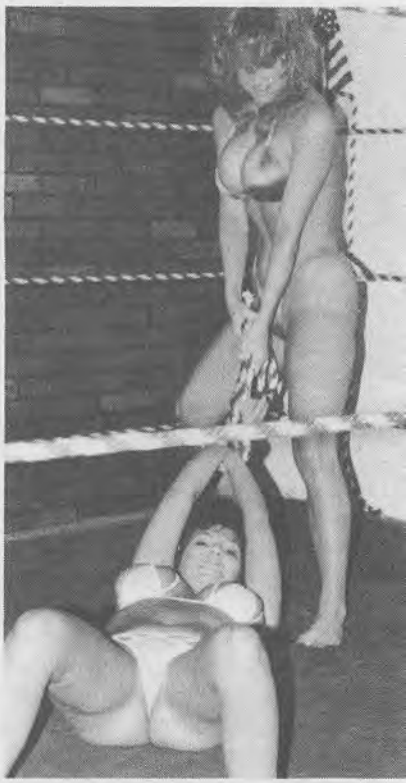

MEET DEENA ZARRA

The Baddest Woman on the Planet

By PETER WOOD

No woman on earth can beat me!

Introducing, in the corner to my right, standing six feet three inches tall, weighing two hundred and ten pounds, from New York City, the undefeated Women's Amateur Heavyweight Wrestling Champion of the world, Deena Zarra.

For those unfortunate few who may not know of the world renowned "Italian Goddess;" her credentials are certainly impressive. Deena is the proud possessor of the longest, strongest legs in New York and is undoubtedly the most powerful woman in the world. She regularly leg presses over 400 pounds, she has performed the herculean lift of a 300 pound man, she is the only woman ever to pin Andy Kaufman, and she is undefeated in over 5,000 matches against men and women of all sizes from six different continents. She is also the founder and president of the Amazon Explorers Wrestling Club in N.Y. City. It is the only legitimate collegiate-freestyle wrestling club in the country today. It features private wrestling and boxing matches, live wrestling shows, videos, photos, newsletters, and "Whistlestop Wrestling Tours" of the country. All the girls in the club have been personally trained by Deena and they stay in great shape through regular workouts, weight training, and wrestling practice with a coach. The women in the club range in size from 110 pound lightweights to 240 pound heavyweights. Whatever your size and skill they can make a match for you. If you would like to get in touch with Deena or want information on her club, videos, shows, tours, or newsletter; you may write to DEENA ZARRA P.O. BOX 651 N.Y., N.Y. 10011.

Wrestling Eye—How did you first get into wrestling?

Deena Zarra—As a kid I was a tomboy and I've always been big for my age and very athletic; so I

beat up a few boys in my time, but my first real public wrestling match was against comedian Andy Kaufman on Showtime television at Carnegie Hall in N.Y. He offered $1,000 to any woman in the audience who could pin him. Well, despite illegal tactics by him and his hand-picked referee; I pinned him several times. I never got the money because Andy never expected to lose and they didn't have it. It was just a publicity gimmick. Afterwards he said, "She is the only woman I ever met who was stronger than a man." Afterwards, I met a college wrestling coach who had seen the match and he encouraged me to get into wrestling. I began taking judo classes with Master Oschie and wrestling lessons with the coach.

W.E.—How and when did you win the World Amateur Title?

D.Z.—In 1979, a match was set up for the title between myself and the 6' 210 pound Velvet Rhodes of England. It was a very difficult match for me because I didn't have as much experience, I hadn't yet started serious weight training, and she had a 25 pound weight advantage. Nevertheless, I defeated her for the world title and 18 months later I handily won the rematch because I had acquired vastly more experience, I had been pumping iron faithfully, and had built myself up to 198 rock solid pounds.

W.E.—What is the state of amateur female wrestling today?

D.Z.—Amateur wrestling has very few outlets for females. There have been a few small inroads made recently. Several girls have competed and even won matches on high school and college teams. In the 1988 Olympics women's judo was a demonstration sport and in the 1992 Olympics it will be a medal sport. I believe wrestling should be added as a medal sport for women, but since the antiquated leaders of the Olympic Committee don't see fit to include women; I am seriously considering going for the gold medal in women's judo at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, if I can arrange the sponsorship. I would like nothing better than to kick some Russian butt and add the judo gold medal to my wrestling titles.

W.E.—Are there any tips you can give to our fans on how to get into wrestling or how to be a better wrestler?

D.Z.—It just so happens that I have a new video coming out where we demonstrate, teach, and explain wrestling maneuvers, holds, and counters. It also covers exercise, weight training, instructions, diet, psychology, and how and where to get into wrestling. For young kids, most grade schools, high schools, and colleges have good wrestling programs and I would encourage them to try that. Also, there are several books and videos you can learn from (Buy Mine). Furthermore, you can take judo and wrestling lessons at a dojo. Group lessons are fairly inexpensive. Plus, there are also pro wrestling schools like Killer Kowalski's and Dominic Denucci's. Or, of course, you could always hook up with me and my Amazon Explorers.

As far as tips on wrestling I recommend 1. Consult a doctor for a complete physical. 2. Get in shape. Start slowly and work up with aerobic exercises like running, swimming etc. 3. Weight training. Join a gym or get your own equipment. Start with light weight at as many

Deena pins 6'1" 240 lb Pat Stillwagon with a grapevine hold.

repetitions as you can comfortably handle and build up to higher weights. 4. Get supervised, expert instruction. 5. Get a partner for workouts and wrestling. It's always more fun and there is a better chance you will stick to it.
6. Stretching. Always stretch first before exercising or wrestling. I recommend 10 minutes and a couple minutes of light jogging. Cool down and stretch between falls and after a match. Do not lay down or sit still, but walk and stretch.
7. Immediately ice any bumps or bruises. 8. And of course, like any other sport; practice, practice, practice.

W.E.—What are your plans for the future?

D.Z.—Of course I'll be in hard training for the Olympics and to stay undefeated. I will be producing the wrestling demonstration video I talked about before and many other videos. I am always recruiting and training new girls. I am also expanding my club, my newsletters, and my wrestling tours. I will be starting a wrestling phone service and I am working on a deal for a cable T.V. show. Plus, my 1989 Live Wrestling Show, "The Grapple in the Big Apple" is coming up.

W.E.—What would you say to women about wrestling?

D.Z.—People in general, but especially women, harbor some bad misconceptions about wrestling. Wrestling is a tremendous sport in many ways. It is a sport requiring strength, stamina, dedication, concentration, hard training, good technique, and mental and physical toughness. It builds discipline and self confidence. You learn how to defend yourself while getting in fun, healthy exercise; which incidentally, burns more calories than any other sport. Plus, it is a great way to work out your frustrations. Furthermore, in eleven years I have never been injured besides a few bumps and bruises. Finally, it is a fantastic way to attract men. From personal experience I can tell you more men than you might think respect and admire healthy, strong, confident women. I believe if women knew more about the positive aspects of the sport; they would be more receptive to learning and participating in it.

W.E.—Thanks Deena.

Deena lifts weights to stay in peak physical condition.

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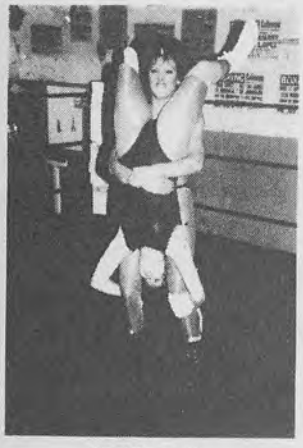

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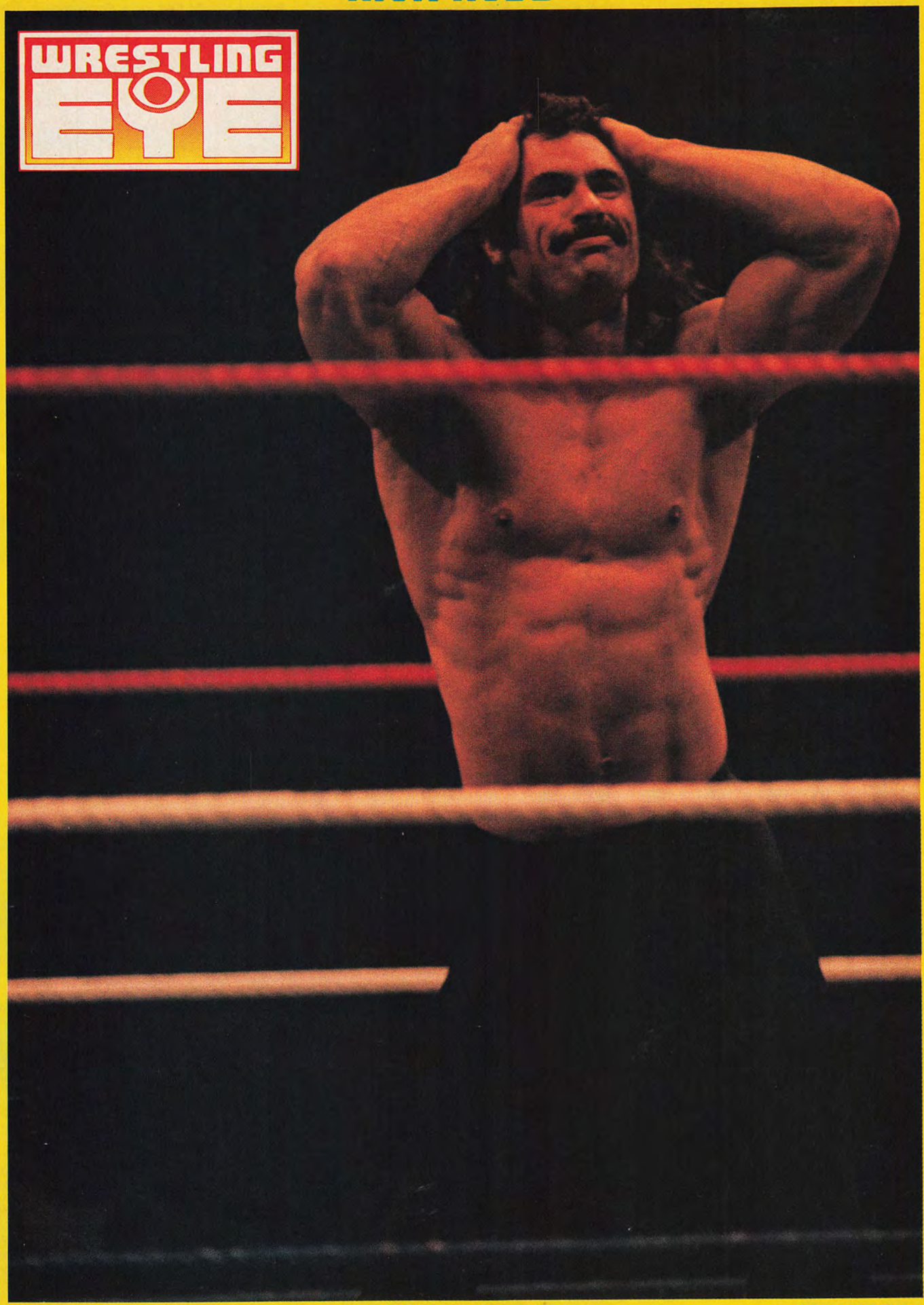

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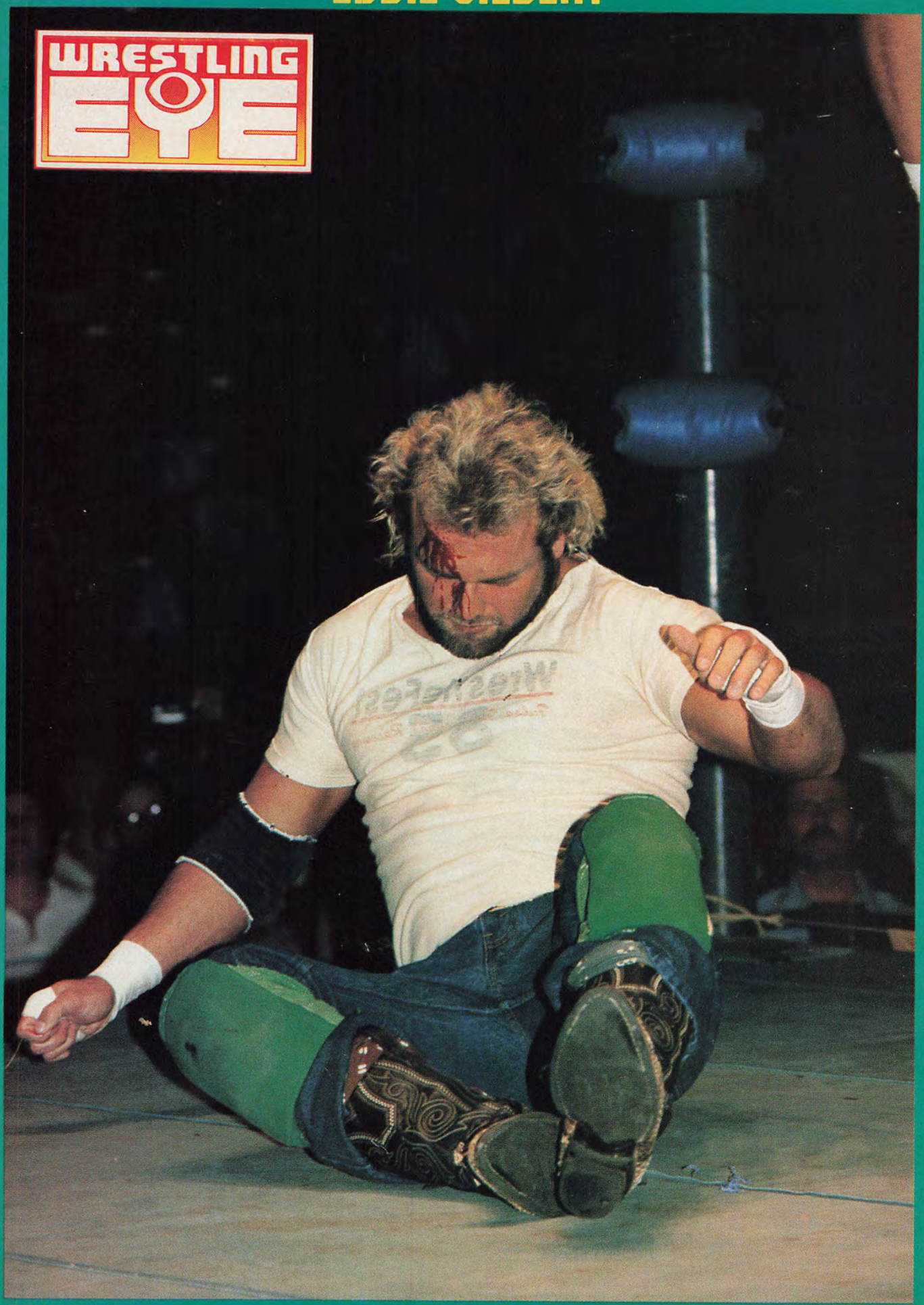

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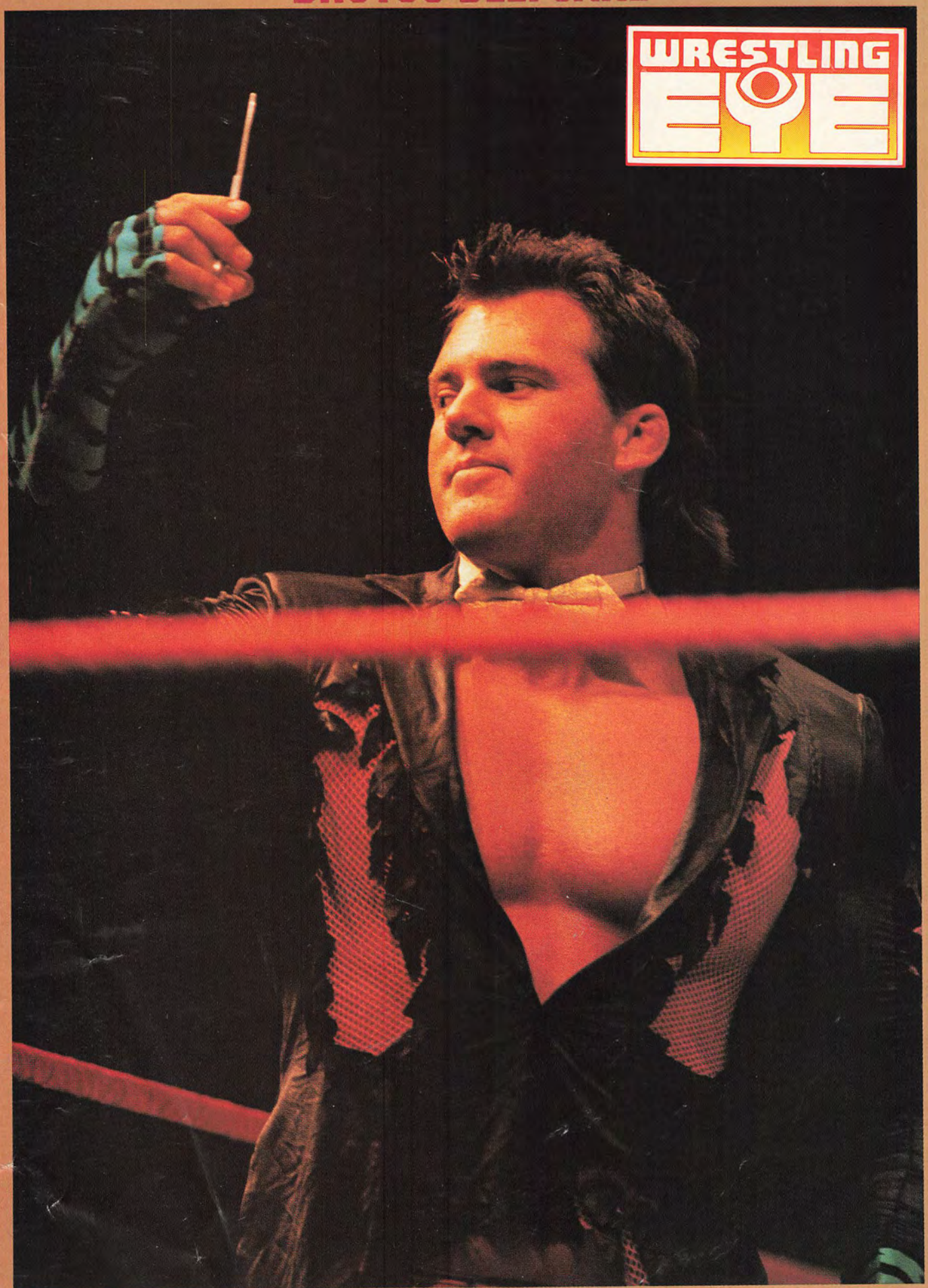

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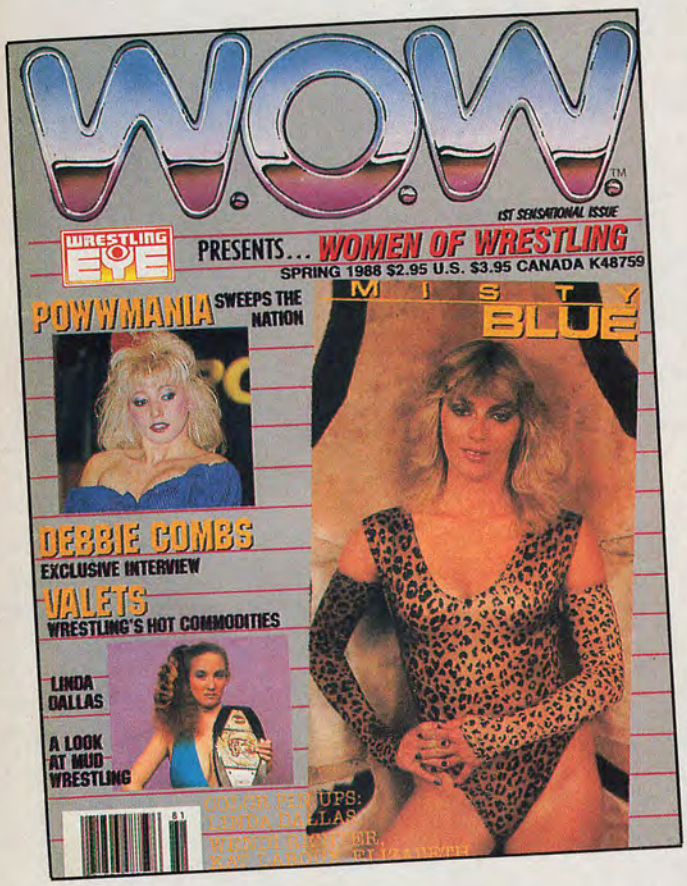

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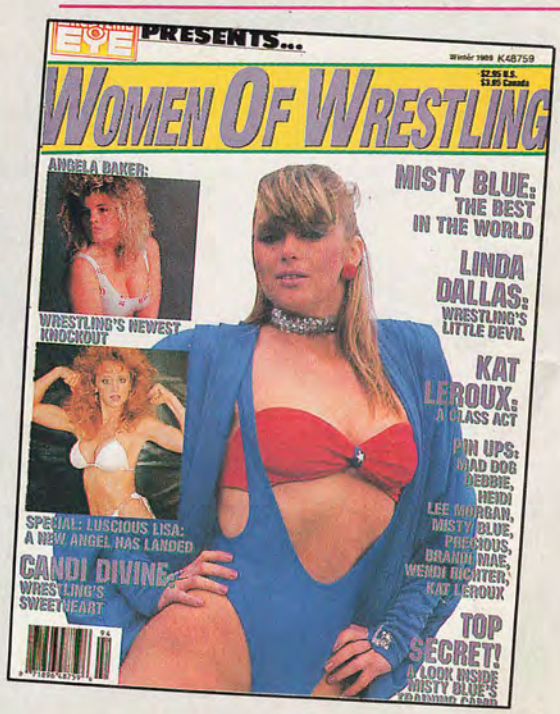

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